Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-022 *2 February 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt's Basyuni, Israel's Rabin Comment on Cairo Summit

Basyuni: Summit Meeting of 'Peace Camp'

TA0102201195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni calls the Cairo summit a meeting of the peace camp aimed at promoting the process. He expressed the hope that Syrian President al-Asad will attend the next meeting. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el this evening, Amb. Basyuni said Egypt understands Israel's security problems. He believes that 'Arafat is doing everything possible to fight terror, which is a goal common to all the countries of the peace camp.

Rabin: Summit Response to Peace Obstacles

TA0202120795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking before his departure, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Cairo summit has come in response to attempts in the recent past to stop the budding rapprochement between Israel and the Arab world. Our correspondent Sefi Hendler heard the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Hendler] A short while before leaving for Cairo, the prime minister found time to appear before the Labor Party's convention for veteran and retired members. Rabin briefly mentioned the impending meeting and implied that this evening's summit in Cairo was designed to counterbalance the Alexandria summit, held with the participation of the Syrian president, the Saudi Arabian king, and Egyptian President Mubarak, in which an attempt was made to preclude Israel's integration into the Middle East.

[Rabin] I believe that today's summit in Cairo will constitute a response to attempts made in the recent past to stop this new openness and will permit us to pursue the spirit of openness represented by the Casablanca summit.

[Hendler] In his remarks, Rabin also alluded to the demands Israel will present to the Palestinians at the Cairo meeting.

[Rabin] They must undertake their responsibility and prevent the areas of Gaza and Jericho that are under the control of the Palestinian Authority from becoming sanctuaries, foci of incitement, or staging points for terrorist attacks. This is what we demand of them. Their ability to meet this commitment will decide, more than anything else, the rate and possibility of progress in implementing the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

Official Statements on Cairo Summit Reported

Official Confirms 'Arafat To Attend

JN0102150395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has confirmed that the president will visit Cairo tomorrow to attend a four-way summit that will bring together, besides him, King Husayn of Jordan, President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

PA Spokesman on Demands

JN0202083895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Feb 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, official spokesman of the Palestinian Authority (PA) by Fathi al-Barqawi on 1 February; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, hello.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Hello to you.

[Al-Barqawi] President Yasir 'Arafat will participate in a quadripartite summit in Cairo tomorrow. Would you tell us about the extent to which this summit will contribute toward activating the Palestinian-Israeli track?

[Abu-Rudaynah] After his successful visit to Jordan, President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. In a closed session that lasted more than two hours, the two leaders discussed everything related to the Palestinian-Israeli track and the crisis in the peace process and the freezing process which Rabin spoke about a few days ago. The two leaders held long and profound talks. Then we learned that an Egyptian initiative was being launched quietly to hold a meeting among President Abu-'Ammar, President Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, and Mr. Rabin. You are aware that the Palestinian side, which signed agreements in Cairo, Washington, and Oslo, honors the agreements it signed. It demands that the other side honor its signature and commit itself to what it signed.

A large part of the success of tomorrow's summit depends on the Egyptian and U.S. efforts, as well as the extent of the Israeli responsiveness and its commitment to the provisions of the agreements signed in Cairo, Washington, and Oslo. This requires lifting the siege on Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. It also requires quick moves in the matter of redeploying the Israeli forces outside cities and villages and populated Palestinian areas preparatory to holding Palestinian legislative elections. It will also depend on the extent of Israel's responsiveness to the permanent Palestinian demands and President 'Arafat's incessant concern regarding the release of the strugglers who have spent many years in

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jail. At the same time, an end should be put to the settlement activity of the settlers who are sometimes protected by the Israeli Army.

We cannot forget Egyptian President Mubarak's efforts. These blessed efforts have aimed at breaking the deadlock and realizing movement on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

[Al-Barqawi] Nabil, you mentioned Egyptian-American efforts. It seems something is being cooked over a slow fire. Do you think that the U.S. Administration will find itself more concerned with the peace process after the summit?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, President Abu-'Ammar sent an important letter to U.S. President Clinton asking him, as a co- sponsor of the peace process and a witness to the signing of the Washington agreement, to exert speedy moves to save the peace process from its present predicament. We hope that the U.S. efforts ... [pauses] as we are aware, the Americans have repeatedly informed us of their interest in the success and continuation of the peace process and we hope that things will take their correct course tomorrow.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Nabil, thank you for these most important remarks.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank You, brother Fathi.

Official Hopes Summit To Aid Peace

NC0202120095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate to the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has stated that the quadripartite summit to be held in Cairo today at the initiative of President Husni Mubarak is a quick and positive move by Cairo to rescue the peace process from the stagnation and deterioration it is going through as a result of Israel's intransigent stands.

In remarks to MENA, Subayh stressed that the Egyptian initiative comes at a very appropriate time. It was the only option left to tackle this crisis through frankness and openness at the highest levels, he added. The Palestinian official hoped that a clear declaration will come out of this summit, reiterating commitment to the Oslo Agreement, promoting a continuation of the peace process, starting immediate negotiations to release the Palestinian detainees, lifting the siege imposed on Gaza and the West Bank, and freezing the settlement activity, which is the primary problem in the peace process. He also hoped that the remaining provisions of the Oslo Agreement will be implemented. [passage omitted]

Official Sees Two Capitals in Jerusalem

NC0202080695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0525 GMT 2 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority official in charge of Jerusalem, in Jerusalem, by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] Undoubtedly the subject of Jerusalem will be prominent at the quadripartite summit to be held in Cairo among President Mubarak, the Palestinian president, the Jordanian king, and the Israeli prime minister. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa last night stated that the summit will focus on the Palestinian-Israeli track. What is the Palestinian viewpoint on Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] For us Palestinians—and I believe it is also an Arab and Islamic position—Arab Jerusalem must be the capital of a Palestinian state. We are not talking about a divided city of Jerusalem, but about an open city that comprises two capitals. We believe that this is the maximum concession that the Palestinians could offer, basically because Jerusalem has a unique status and because both East and West Jerusalem are Arab property. But because we want to comply with UN Resolution 242, we believe that a solution of this sort is foreseeable. I say this while it is clear in my mind, and I believe in the minds of all Arab leaders—and it should also be clear in the mind of Israel—that under the solution we are proposing Jerusalem could serve as the warm sun of the Middle East, inspiring stability, security, and warmth throughout the region. But if the Palestinian right in Jerusalem is not respected and if the Israelis cling tightly to their stand, Jerusalem could become the black hole of the Middle East, like the black holes in the universe that can swallow much larger bodies, including all hopes for peace in the region.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Do the Palestinians and Jordanians have a common view on this particular issue?

[Al-Husayni] Yes; I believe that for Jordan Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. There are specific responsibilities that Jordan is assuming in terms of the religious sites and endowment, and they will be handed over to the Palestinians once they take charge of Jerusalem.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Do you believe that the Israelis are deliberately trying not to reach a specific solution regarding Jerusalem at the moment and want to wait until all negotiations on the various tracks are completed?

[Al-Husayni] Had their postponement of a discussion on this matter been a tactical step, perhaps we would have understood it. But what they are doing is trying to postpone discussing Jerusalem and in the meantime they are completely changing the actual situation in Jerusalem. This means that the postponement is simply meant

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to gain time to change the Arab face of Jerusalem into an Israeli and Jewish face. We reject this. It could shatter all hopes for peace, not only in Palestine but in the entire Middle East as well.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Observers believe that the current stage, the stage of Arab-Israeli encounters, is a difficult time, particularly since Israel is not fully honoring its obligations, at least regarding the redeployment of the Israeli army, legislative elections, and other things. In the final analysis, what does this indicate?

[Al-Husayni] Israel and Mr. Rabin must decide right now what is his main priority. Is it his campaign for the coming elections or achieving peace in the region?

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Does Mr. Rabin imagine that if negotiations on all tracks stumble this will help him win the coming elections?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that they have the erroneous impression that in the end if he satisfies the rightists, he will win the elections. We have a different impression: that if Mr. Rabin wants to adopt the views of the right, why should the Israeli voters go for the imitation and not the original?

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Regardless of what this could do to the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Unfortunately they are eying their chances of victory in the coming elections more than the peace process. Mr. Rabin is waging the election battle more than the battle for peace, and this is very unfortunate.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Does the Palestinian side have a specific formula on Jerusalem which it will discuss at the quadripartite summit?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, this is the way things are supposed to be. I believe that things are well-defined and I hope that as a result of this meeting Rabin will get a clear idea of how important and serious Jerusalem is for us and what are limits beyond which he should not go if he wants a real peace.

['Abd-al-Tawwab] Thank you Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs.

[Al-Husayni] You're welcome.

'Arafat Meets With Israeli Arab Knesset Members

JN3101202595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat today received a delegation of the Arab Democratic Party. The delegation included Knesset Members [MK's] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and Talab al-Sani'.

The brother president briefed the two MK's on the deteriorating economic conditions in the National Authority areas in light of the closure and siege of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. President 'Arafat stressed the Palestinian people's adherence to the peace process, noting the need to adhere to the Oslo and Cairo agreements. [passage omitted]

Gazans on High Prices, Taxes, Living Standards

95AA0065A Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 16 Dec 94 p 2

[Article by Hasan Dawhan: "Living Standards for Residents of Autonomous Areas Decline As Incomes Shrink and Prices Rise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Palestinian Authority [PA] took over the reins of power in the autonomous areas, people in those areas had hoped and prayed for relief from their suffering. Soon, however, these aspirations and hopes turned into a horrible nightmare, perpetuating the people's sense of despair and frustration and turning their aspirations for a bright and radiant future into a major illusion.

A Stunning Rise in Prices

The price increases that came in the wake of such a grave change have been unprecedented over the past 30 years. Almost everything has been affected by them. Muhammad 'Abid says, "It's like living in the shadow of death. Given these exorbitant prices, which we can do nothing about, the authority must take people's circumstances into consideration, and it must help them get rid of what is making their lives difficult." Mr. 'Abid called upon the PA to determine a percentage of goods that would be exported to Israel for the purpose of "balancing our needs with those exports." He added, "The PA should also set prices and steer the economy in a manner that would first and foremost serve the interests of the country."

'Abid adds, "Despite the fear of people felt during the intifadah, life then was better than it is now. Today, the source of people's fears comes from two directions." He says, "We have become frustrated because the PA has offered the Palestinian people nothing and has become a burden on them instead."

Kan'an Hamad, a grain merchant, adds, "All goods, even simple and inconsequential ones, have been affected by price increases." He said that price increases are having a negative effect on the volume of sales. Price increases are due to the fact that goods are not being imported and that exorbitant taxes are being imposed on goods that are brought into the Gaza Strip. He called upon the PA to make the process of importing goods easier and to remove the obstacles to importing goods.

Shrinking Income

Farid al-Baba, a food staples merchant, said that the situation is getting worse. He said that a new spiral of price increases is "making us unable to buy or sell." It was his opinion that shrinking or non-existent incomes

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are having a negative effect on commercial activity in the market. He added, "Workers do nothing but sit along the sides of the roads talking about this period of hardship that does not seem to be ending any time soon."

Al-Baba called upon the PA to take the workers' circumstances into consideration and to make a serious effort to provide them with suitable employment opportunities. He indicated that even flour, oils, and other such goods have been affected by price increases and that the situation is so bad, employees cannot afford to buy. He added that people come to the store to ask about prices but that they do not buy. He attributed the sluggishness of the market also to the fact that Palestinian citizens have no revenues and that their purchasing power is declining.

Exorbitant Taxes

'Umar Barhum said, "Price increases have been stunning. They have risen many times more over last year's prices." He added, "Even poultry prices have risen, and many people cannot buy chickens." Barhum indicated that sadness and despair have taken hold of citizens as a result of their inability to keep up with this fragile situation which has prevailed under the PA. He believes that he is unable to provide his family's minimum needs on a citizen's meager income. He noted with regret, however, that there is no alternative to this situation, adding that prices for construction materials have also risen. Hamid Ghariz says, "High prices are the result of the fact that taxes have been imposed on construction materials that are imported from Israel. These taxes have been imposed to increase revenues for the PA, and that has contributed to the wave of price increases." He added that high prices are having an effect on construction in the area and on consumers as well, and he expressed the hope that this difficult period that our Palestinian people are experiencing will pass.

It behooves the PA, at any rate, to conduct a comprehensive study of all the economic and living conditions of the people so that a serious inquiry can be made into finding radical solutions for confronting the tide of exorbitant high prices that is being experienced in the Gaza Strip. This situation should not be left to chance, lest the outcome of this ill wind be conditions that are favorable to Israeli economic interests. It behooves the PA to answer the principal question that is on the minds of most citizens: "How long will these prices continue to rise?"

Gaza Refugee Camp Housing Problems Discussed

95AA0065B Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 16 Dec 94 pp 3, 15

[Article by Zakariyah al-Madhun: "Refugees Encroaching Upon Remaining Narrow Alleys in the Wake of a Grinding Housing Shortage; Disputes, Differences Turn Into Deadly Battles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A dangerous phenomenon that has become widespread recently in Gaza's refugee camps is making most residents of these camps and all those who are concerned with the tragic situation in them worried. Having waited 45 years for answers to life and death questions that they had been asking in the course of their lives as refugees—and God only knows how long that has been—Palestinian refugees have found themselves facing the bitter reality of finding no answers.

As it investigates one of the most serious problems confronting the camps today, AL-ISTIQLAL finds that the remaining narrow alleys and the homes that were torn down are being encroached upon. The refugees themselves who want to add a few meters of space to their residences of tin sheets and tile are blocking the alleys with construction. That is why many alleys, which provided the only outlet for the camp's children and youngsters, have becoame blocked. Furthermore, the attempt to block off some alleys and annex the space to a residence has been the cause of social problems and continuous friction. Recently, such friction in al-Shati' Camp resulted in murder.

The exacerbation of the housing problem in the Gaza Strip followed the return of policemen and their families and the return of some deportees.

Given these developments, AL-ISTIQLAL has placed the spotlight on what has been happening.

Walid Ayub, director of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] Department of Public Property, says that housing conditions became worse when 7,000 policemen were brought into the Gaza Strip. The policemen, who have no shelter, used to make daily inquiries about housing at the Department of Public Property. Ayub added, "The Department of Public Property has a strategic conviction that expansion must not be horizontal because land is limited. The Department is contemplating vertical expansion and construction of projects for policemen and citizens."

Zuhayr Musa, a resident of al-Shati' Camp, who built a structure on the vacant lot adjacent to his house, indicated that he did what he did because his house was small. He said that especially after the return of his brother and his family his home had become crowded. Encroachment on government land and on destroyed homes has caused problems and disputes among residents. In some cases these disputes have resulted in murder.

Lieutenant Colonel Ghazi al-Jibali, the chief of police, issued a decree prohibiting construction on government land and punishing anyone who builds any structure on government land.

'Ala' Agha, director of public relations for the Palestine Housing Council, addressed the causes of the housing problem and said that they are several, most importantly:

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1. Most of the land where the camps are located is government-owned land.
2. Most houses in the camps are small and not large enough for their occupants.
3. The owners of some of the destroyed houses in the camps have come back to rebuild their homes.
4. Members of the Palestinian police force have returned.
5. Economic conditions have deteriorated, and home prices have risen. Few apartments have been built, and the number of public and private sector apartments does not exceed 2,500.
6. The amount of public and private land is small; land prices have risen; and 70 percent of the land in the Gaza Strip is still under Israeli control.

The Palestine Housing Council established several housing projects to alleviate the housing shortage in the Gaza Strip, but these projects have fallen short of meeting the residents' need. Walid Ayub, director of the Department of Public Property, indicated that pressure on the department from members of the police force who had become a burden on their families was such, "We gave them permits to build houses in al-Shati' and Jabaliya camps. We allowed them to build on land where destroyed structures had once stood, and we stipulated that the area of the land they built on not exceed 120 meters."

Ayub added, "Unfortunately, everyone whose home remained intact and who built a structure on the lot in the projects he had received, proceeded to compete with the returnees for land and space. Although such a person might own a multi-story building, he would take possession of the site of a returnee's old home, thereby making that family homeless. Ayub added, "Such avarice, greed, and ignorance are the cause of the al-Shati' camp tragedy, whose victim was Zaqut, a young man. That tragedy led us to end this process and bring it to a standstill. To solve the housing problem in the Gaza Strip in general and in the camps in particular, the director of public relations in the Palestine Housing Council called for the following:

A. Establishment of government housing projects, especially for those who need housing.
B. Encouraging investment in the private sector and monitoring such investments, for example, how many homes are being built, building specifications, and wages.
C. It is up to the PA to stand up to attempts that are being made to encroach upon government land.
D. Prosecuting those who build on government land without permits.
E. The PA has to assume its natural role in finding solutions to the residents' problems.
F. The Palestinian public has to do its part to make the tasks of the national authority easier. The public can do that by adhering to all decrees issued by that authority.

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Egypt

Israel's Peres Visits for Talks on Peace Process, NPT

Musa, Peres Comment on Mubarak Meeting

NC0102124395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said after a two-hour meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today that the talks dealt with the peace process in all its aspects and all its tracks.

He noted President Mubarak's invitation to King Husayn of Jordan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to hold an urgent summit meeting in Cairo on Thursday [2 February] to discuss the peace process and how to save it from its worsening condition.

He said President 'Arafat is expected to arrive first to hold some consultations with President Mubarak before the opening of the four-way summit.

Musa said he hoped the summit will help the peace process face the numerous challenges ahead.

Musa said telephone conversations President Husni Mubarak held with King Husayn, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Yasir 'Arafat over the past few days sought to boost the Middle East peace process and surmount the obstacles in its way.

He noted that he recently held talks with Peres on the sidelines of the Davos forum in Switzerland. He said he and Peres made a comprehensive analysis of the situation, especially concerning the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the difficulties they are running into.

He said talks will continue to discuss preparations for the four-way summit and other issues of bilateral concern.

On the peace process, Peres said his meeting with President Mubarak today will offer a great amount of support for the peace process. He said: We in the Middle East are not facing a conflict like that in the past, but there is a real attempt to create a coalition for peace and not give "the antipeace coalition" a chance to stop the peace march.

The Israeli foreign minister said the four-way summit tomorrow is "a coalition for peace" that is open to all parties.

He said he sees the new Middle East, as he envisions it, not merely as a description of a specific geographic area, but more a "political description" according to which everybody believes that the Middle East region can live in peace, prosperity, cooperation, tolerance, and understanding in the interest of their peoples.

Peres thanked President Mubarak for the positive role he is playing to advance the Middle East peace process. He said: I told President Mubarak that he played a central part to get the Palestinians and the Israelis together.

The Israeli foreign minister said he hoped that President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will continue to advance the peace process for the good of the region's peoples.

He said today's talks were held in a spirit full of great hope.

Answering a question, Peres said he does not believe that the issue of signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] will be discussed at the four-way summit in Cairo tomorrow.

He said this is a private matter between Egypt and Israel. I believe we will reach an understanding and overcome the differences in our views, he said.

Peres pointed out that he discussed the issue of nuclear weapons with President Mubarak today. I believe the spirit governing both of our positions is to try to find a way out of the issue and avoid making it a point of dispute, he said.

Asked whether Middle Eastern states' signing of the Treaty can achieve stability in the region, Peres said: It would be a terrific idea. But we must establish peace first, since we cannot build the second story before we build the first. Right now we are trying to build the first floor.

Shim'on Peres added: We told our Egyptian friends that we are willing to build a two-story rather than a one-story building. The first floor would be peace, while the second would be a nuclear-free zone.

Peres was asked if Israel was the only state that is vulnerable to a nuclear threat from other states like Iran. He replied that he does not like any state to be vulnerable to the nuclear threat.

'Amr Musa answered a question on the Egyptian position on signing the NPT. He said: Our position is fixed and known; we want the Middle East to be free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons in particular.

Musa added: We do not accept the current situation; there is an undeclared nuclear program that is not being taken into account. We are trying to solve this problem and deal with it in a positive and effective manner. We will continue to discuss this. I trust that there will be a step forward concerning this problem; I am not saying a way out, he said.

Asked if there is a compromise that allows Egyptian experts to visit Israeli nuclear reactors, Shim'on Peres said this issue cannot be discussed publicly until an attempt is made to bring both sides closer to an agreement in their views.

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Minister Musa was asked about the four-way summit slated for Thursday and Syria's role in the peace process. He said: Syria is a major partner in the peace process and the talks on the Syrian-Israeli track deal with the issues of security, withdrawal, and others. He reiterated that the Syrian track cannot be overlooked at the four-way summit, noting that it will be on the agenda of the meeting.

Commenting on this, Peres said there is an open invitation to the summit, particularly for President Hafiz al-Asad if he wants to attend. We will be pleased if he comes, because our ultimate goal is to create a comprehensive peace in the region without excepting anyone, Peres said.

Musa remarked: President al-Asad needs no invitation and can come to Cairo any time.

Musa, Peres on Cairo Summit, Nuclear Treaty

NC0102144395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held an expanded meeting with his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres at the Foreign Ministry to follow up on the topics that were discussed with President Husni Mubarak this morning.

'Amr Musa and the Israeli foreign minister held a news conference after the meeting. At the outset of the conference, Foreign Minister Musa pointed out that his talks with the Israeli foreign minister focused on the quadripartite summit slated to be held in Cairo tomorrow evening. The summit, which was called for by President Mubarak, will be attended by King Husayn of Jordan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The foreign minister said the summit will discuss the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

In his remarks, the foreign minister noted that he agreed with Peres to continue talks and consultations to work out an ideal formula to activate the peace process and to agree on the status of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in the area and on arms control.

Asked about Peres' remarks that the signing of the Treaty is noncommittal, the foreign minister said this is Israel's viewpoint, not Egypt's. He said: From now and until the signing of the Treaty we must adopt measures and make progress on the road to nuclear disarmament and guarantee the security of every state, not only Israel. Musa said that other steps should be taken to ensure diligent progress toward achieving a region free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Asked about Jordan's participation in the summit tomorrow, the foreign minister said that Jordan's participation is an addition to the summit in view of the interaction between the Palestinian and Jordanian authorities. He added that Jordan must attend because the Israeli-Jordanian Agreement is parallel to the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement.

Musa said that tomorrow's summit will discuss the peace process in the region and will emphasize the Palestinian track, which suffered several crises recently. The summit will also deal with the other peace tracks, Musa added. The foreign minister noted that the summit aims to achieve progress on the Palestinian track.

The Israeli foreign minister said that what is described as tension between Egypt and Israel is somewhat fabricated. He said that progress was made during his talks with Musa today concerning the elimination of this tension.

Asked about Israel's refusal to sign the Treaty, Peres said that the signing of the Treaty does not diminish the fears. If the signing does not lessen the fears then there is no need for it.

Asked about the negotiations with Syria, the Israeli foreign minister said that his country has demonstrated a readiness to find a compromise in this regard.

Peres Leaves After Brief Visit

NC0102143295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left Cairo this afternoon, following a brief visit that lasted several hours, during which he met with President Mubarak.

Peres held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on ways to push the Middle East peace process ahead.

'Arafat Arrives for Quadripartite Cairo Summit

NC0202105495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived here today to take part in the quadripartite summit to be held this evening among the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. 'Arafat was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa Comments on Proliferation, Peace Process

JN0102185595 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Jan 95 pp 1, 26

[Report by Haytham Shalabi in Davos]

[FBIS Translated Text] During his presence in Davos to participate in the 25th annual meeting of the International Economic Forum, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa spoke to AL-ITTIHAD about the issues of our Arab region.

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He began by hailing the calls for closing Arab ranks by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. These are supported by statements from other UAE officials, the last of which was by General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, crown prince of Dubai and UAE defense minister. He said these are good calls that should be implemented, stressing that Arab reconciliation should be realized.

Musa said there is an effort to realize this reconciliation through the Damascus Declaration, whose member states will meet next week to discuss this point in particular. He said: I hope we succeed in realizing reconciliation, but I am not sure, although I am hopeful.

On the latest developments in the situation concerning the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Musa said: The Egyptian position is firm. Contacts with the Israelis and the Americans are going on before the convening of the conference on this treaty in April. The Egyptian position is known and clear. It says we will not accept a single nuclear state remaining in the region. Israel should join the treaty and should subject its nuclear installations to international inspection. This may take time, but it should be started.

He added: It is impossible to accept that only Arab countries should be subject to the international order concerning nuclear programs, either by pressure or by their desire to be part of that international order.

He summed up the subject by saying: Either all of us should be in this order, or we should all be out of it.

On recent talks with Robert Pelletreau [U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs] about the U.S. understanding of the Egyptian position, Musa said the United States fully understands the Egyptian view because it is related to regional security, adding that Egypt will continue in this position.

On the coincidence of this dispute and the U.S. media campaign [against Egypt] and the Israeli report [not further identified], Musa said this subject does not concern him much. He added: The timing may indicate something, but this will not affect Egypt's ability to resist pressure and to confront the campaigns directed against it and its ability to reply to, coexist with, resist, or defeat them.

On the current situation of the peace process, Musa regrettably admitted that there is a clear stalemate on all tracks, and this should be tackled by advancing peace on the basis of the main principle of land for peace.

On the impact of this situation on the economic development of the region, and specifically on the regional development bank, Musa said the subject of the bank is not viewed from either an optimistic or pessimistic point of view, because all agree on the importance of setting up this bank. The talks between concerned regional parties will continue to agree on conditions, the location of the bank, and how it will operate. He said: The expert committee assigned to study this project has not yet reached anything specific. No decision on setting up the bank will be made before October.

Musa commented on how much the world, and the private sector in particular, understands the economic problems of the region in the wake of his meetings with businessmen and governments officials. He said: For them, the picture is clear, not hazy. He added: Their main concern recently has been the situation following the Casablanca summit, and whether things are executed. He said that the concept of most of those he met was that the Casablanca summit was held within the framework of a successful peace process and that only minor things remained before good results were realized. We know this is something that is inaccurate. The peace process is now in a very critical situation, and this will adversely influence all other issues that are based on an established peace.

Musa concluded by expressing hope that the Hala'ib issue [between Egypt and Sudan] is on its way to a solution, stressing the importance of calming tension surrounding the issue and the importance of understanding that the subject is not Hala'ib, but the subject of relations and policies as a whole; this is the crux of the dispute.

U.S. Said Pressuring Cairo To Sign NPT

NC0202071095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that the United States has been putting a lot of pressure on Cairo to make it back down from its position on the nuclear arms issue and to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] when it comes up for renewal in April.

These pressures have produced a retraction of the hard-line stance that Egypt adopted during the past few months demanding that Israel not only sign the NPT but also submit its nuclear installations to international inspection and control.

The U.S. pressures persuaded Cairo to accept an Israeli promise that it will sign after the treaty is extended. The United States threatened to reduce or cut off aid to countries who oppose its position on the treaty.

Commentary Views Need To Sign Nuclear Treaty

NC0102145495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The issue is not Israel's signing or failure to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Most optimistic people did not expect the meetings of the preparatory committee of the

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nuclear nonproliferation conference, which concluded its work at dawn last Sunday [29 January], to produce an initial approval by the delegates for the proposal adopted by the United States, Russia, and East and West European states to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty indefinitely. Nonaligned states demanded that the signing be for a specific period, during which the nuclear arsenals of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council would be reduced. Indefinite extension would then be considered.

As for the Arab states—and this is what concerns us—Egypt previously declared that it would not sign the Treaty until Israel signs it. In this position, Egypt is clearly and objectively expressing the Arab stance, which earlier welcomed the initiative President Mubarak announced in April 1990 before the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Mubarak called for making the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and biological weapons.

The initiative stemmed from a committed policy that relies on supporting the peace process as a strategic choice, as long as this peace involves security and stability for all the region's people. As it makes efforts in this context, Egypt is as aware of the requirements and dimensions of the peace process as much as it understands the prerequisites of its own security and the security of fraternal Arab states from which it can never detach itself. No other state is entitled to interfere in issues linked with the Arab identity and existence. Hence, Egypt is careful to reiterate that these stances stem from its Arab responsibilities and its regional role as a nation.

If the United States has openly admitted through its UN envoy Thomas Graham that the Treaty is vital for Middle East security, Egypt, realizing the risks and dimensions involved in commitment to the provisions of that Treaty, has made its consent contingent on Israel's signing of that Treaty, particularly since Israel, according to international reports, owns between 200 and 300 nuclear warheads that can be carried to the farthest point in the Arab region. It thus poses a real threat to the security and stability of the Arab region. As the defense minister, Field Marshal Tantawi, said, Israel's refusal to sign the Treaty is bound to sharply upset the regional balance of military powers and subject the regional peace process to unnecessary hazards.

Hence, President Mubarak's initiative to free the region of nuclear weapons will remain the only reasonable voice, reiterating his eagerness to protect a comprehensive and permanent peace in the region. It is unreasonable and unacceptable to allow Israel, of all regional states, to own nuclear capabilities by which it threatens its neighbors and imposes its hegemony on the Middle East. Israel's insistence on not signing or eliminating its nuclear weapons will only trigger an arms race in the region, just as peace efforts were about to make some progress.

We say this as we call on all the international parties concerned with peace in our region to act before it is too late to convince the Israeli party that security is the legitimate right of all regional states and not exclusive to Israel. They should convince Israel that no matter how powerful and capable a nuclear arsenal is, it cannot provide sufficient guarantees for stability. The former Soviet Union experienced all kinds of development although it maintained a huge nuclear arsenal that failed to provide enough stability for the Russian people to enable them to cope with challenges.

Israel's call for normalization with the Arabs, expanding trade exchange, and building a new Middle East can guarantee its integration into the Arab world. But this call will undoubtedly clash with that arsenal that holds the nuclear terror, threatens the limited peace already achieved, and will even harm the desired peace.

The fact remains that President Mubarak's initiative is the only guarantee for the region's security and stability.

Clinton Calls Mubarak To Discuss Various Issues

NC0102202095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton this evening, during which the U.S. President greeted Mubarak on Ramadan. He expressed his wishes to Egypt to realize its aspirations and achieve further progress toward more coordination and cooperation with the United States in the various fields.

During the conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on a number of international, regional, and Arab issues, Egypt's role, and the hopes attached to the efforts President Husni Mubarak is making to bring about a comprehensive and just peace in the region and bring the views of the parties to the peace process closer.

The U.S. President tried to telephone President Mubarak from his plane at midnight last Tuesday, but the time difference precluded a contact.

Arrest of Muslim Brotherhood Members Denounced

NC0102125895 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jan 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Flagrantly infringing on our sparse democracy, the Interior Ministry mounted a new massive campaign of arrests against Muslim Brotherhood [MB] leaders targeting 27 Islamist activist leaders from various governorates and professions at dawn last Sunday [22 January].

The list of detainees included Dr. 'Isam al-'Iryan, assistant secretary general of the General Physicians Association and a former People's Assembly member; Dr.

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Ibrahim al-Za'farani, secretary of the Alexandria Physicians Association; 86-year-old engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Sharif from Damanhur; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Khaliq Hasan 'Abd-al-Wahhab from Bani Suwayf; accountant Muhammad al-'Arishi from Cairo; Dr. Muhammad Salamah from al-Jizah; Dr. 'Ali 'Izz-al-Din Thabit, professor at the Asyut Medical College and member of Asyut's association council; engineer Ahmad Mahmud Ibrahim, head of the local council of al-Arba'in district in al-Suways and adviser to the Islamic countries' engineering organizations union; Muhammad Basyuni Husayn al-Qasabi, a teacher in Tanta; engineer Sa'd al-Husayni from al-Mahallah; Mahmud Sa'id al-Dib from Dumyat; agricultural engineer Husayn Isma'il 'Uthman from Cairo; Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghani, head of the local council of al-Zaqaziq City; Jamal Sa'd Madi, owner of a printing and publishing house; Muhammad Hasan Ibrahim Faraj from Port Said; Ahmad Muhammad Faraj, a teacher in al-Fayyum; Dr. Muhammad 'Awad Ramadan from Damanhur; engineer Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Husayn Battishah from Damanhur; accountant Muhammad 'Abduh Ibrahim from Bulaq Abu-al-'ula; Mustafa 'Abd-al-Karim Hijazi, head of the local council of Awsim City in al- Jizah; Ibrahim Mutawalli Yasin from Bahtim in Cairo; Subayh 'Ali Subayh from Shubra al-Khaymah, Cairo; engineer Rizq 'Abd-al-Rashid Yunus from al-Minufiyah; Qasim Muhammad Qasim from Cairo; engineer Mahmud Mustafa al-Bandari from al-Suways; Bashir Mahmud al-'Abd from al-'Arish; and Muhammad Taha Wahdan and 'Abdallah Taha Wahdan from Ismailia.

The detainees were referred to the State Security Prosecution last Sunday. The prosecution questioned 13 of them and ordered them to remain in custody for 15 days. Yesterday, Monday, as newspaper went to print, the prosecution had begun interrogating 14 others, and decided to release engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Sharif for health reasons and to detain the remaining 13 for 15 days.

The investigation focused on the detainees' affiliation with the MB and its structuring through organizational elections, when MB members in the provinces were invited to a meeting to explain the group's goals and call for nationwide leadership elections. Astonishingly, the State Security Prosecution's memorandum to the courts was dated 27 December.

During the investigations, 'Isam al-'Iryan affirmed that he asked the detective force which raided his home to register the documents they seized so that no other papers would be added to them, but they refused. He said: I keep in my home numerous papers that I receive through the mail or hand delivered by friends.

The security agencies also seized many documents from Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farani's home that belong to the Physicians Association and the committee in charge of solidarity with Bosnia. [passage omitted]

This security campaign against the MB coincides with the Interior Ministry's malicious propaganda crusade, which accuses the Muslim Brothers of financing terrorism to cover up for their failure to end the bloody violence in the country. This violence has escalated dangerously over the last four years, and the Interior Ministry has been unable to halt it within days, as it claimed.

This campaign also confirms speculations that the Interior Ministry is poised to launch sweeping campaigns against the MB and fabricate false charges to defame its leaders, especially since professional unions and People's Assembly elections are scheduled to be held nationwide in the coming months. [passage omitted]

The MB members were greatly astonished by the latest security campaign. MB official spokesman counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AL-SAH'B that there have been no new developments in the political arena recently to justify such a strong reaction against the MB. Al-Hudaybi said the likely reason behind the recent campaign of arrests may be the growing support within the security agencies for an attempt to plunge the MB and the country into violence and an explosive situation in order to justify harsher and more violent measures against the MB in particular and against the massive popular movement in general.

He said: I believe they want to implicate some MB members or provoke them into committing acts of violence. But I am sure that the MB members will not react to security force pressure. I challenge anyone to prove any connection between the MB and the country's current bloody acts of violence, which the Interior Ministry has failed to end.

As part of the reactions, the Physicians General Association Council and subsidiary association councils held a meeting at noon yesterday, Monday. They decided to organize sit ins in the association headquarters in various governorates to protest the arrest of their college doctors at dawn last Sunday and to form a delegation to meet the public prosecutor and the ministers of interior and justice to discuss the issue. They also decided to call an urgent general assembly meeting for Friday.

In its special meeting last Sunday evening, the Alexandria Physicians Association Council decided to hold an extraordinary general assembly meeting on Friday to discuss security violations against physicians. Dr. Ahmad Matar, assistant secretary of the association and assistant secretary of the International Union of Medical Organizations, said police attacks on physicians may be attributed to approaching elections for the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, and various professional union councils.

The Physicians General Association has issued a statement stressing its strong disapproval of the unjustified arrest of six prominent doctors and union members.

The statement emphasizes that the police measures are proof of the acts of repression, violations, and intimidation toward peaceful women and children in their homes

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while the Arab and Islamic nation faces foreign threats. The association said in its statement that it considers the Council to be in permanent session; And it will take all measures to preserve the rights and interests of its members. It called for a speedy release and rehabilitation of the arrested doctors.

Meanwhile, the committee in charge of coordinating professional unions held an extraordinary meeting at the Engineers Association at noon yesterday, Monday, to discuss ways to deal with the ferocious police campaign against professionals such as physicians, engineers, accountants, agricultural workers, and teachers, which was illustrated by the arrests at dawn last Sunday.

The committee decided to form a delegation to meet leaders of parties and other political forces to urge them to show solidarity with the professional unions. It also decided to form a committee of lawyers to follow up on the legal proceedings, defend the detainees, hold an expanded meeting of all professional union councils, and write to local, regional, and world organizations concerned with human rights. Some 13 professional unions and associations attended the committee's meeting on Monday, the largest participation in the committee's meetings so far.

The Liberty [preceding word in English] Organization has issued a statement from its London headquarters denouncing the security authorities' campaign against a number of MB leaders.

The statement says: The Egyptian authorities have escalated their repressive campaigns against Islamists and Islamic groups that have not been proven to have close or even slight links with acts of violence. Although the security authorities have always sought to justify their persecution of Islamists on the pretext of combating violence and terrorism, a growing number of Islamists who are normally classified as moderate have become victims of the authorities' acts of violence and repression. These acts include raiding their homes and workplaces, confiscating their personal documents, arresting and torturing them, and intimidating their relatives.

The Liberty Organization for the defense of liberties in the Islamic world sees this as a dangerous sign summarized by a close associate of one of the detainees as an eloquent message to the people in Egypt that affiliation with Islam is being targeted in all cases, whether those who adhere to Islam are classified as moderate or extremists. The organization said that dreams of democracy and respect for human rights have turned into scary nightmares which will inevitably provoke more horrible reactions. It added that Algeria is not so different from Egypt.

While strongly condemning the continuous arrests, the Liberty Organization warns that such an unwise policy will worsen the situation and dash all hope for a peaceful solution to the crisis rocking Egypt as a result of the expanding circle of violence and counter violence.

Divisions Within Muslim Brotherhood Discussed

NC0102142095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Intensive investigations conducted by the security agencies have revealed that the Muslim Brotherhood, the activity of which is banned by law, is facing severe division among its leaders following the detention of 27 and jailing of 26 others for 15 days on the prosecution's orders on charges of committing crimes that harm social peace. The investigation indicates that an internal clandestine decision was made relieving Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr and allowing Mustafa Mashhur to assume the leadership of the dissolved organization. The security agencies monitored several Brotherhood meetings chaired by Mustafa Mashhur recently after Abu-al-Nasr left for his hometown of Manfalut in Asyut and following the emergence of differences within the group.

The investigation also revealed that divisions occurred between the two Brotherhood leaders in the Lawyers Association, Mukhtar Nuh and Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna. The General Bureau for Auditing has revealed serious financial contraventions within the doctors, engineers, and laywers associations, which are controlled by Brotherhood figures.

The Brotherhood recently focused its activities on Asyut, where calm has been restored, so as to control mosques and benevolent societies to establish a presence in that governorate in the belief that the security agencies were busy combating terrorists and would not monitor the suspicious activities in Upper Egypt. They also contacted leaders of the terrorists groups for coordination in preparation for forming the pyramid structure of the old organization with the aim of resuming large-scale activities and planning for action in the governorates during Ramadan, exploiting any economic and religious problems to instigate the people against the regime. The security agencies previously seized a similar study in state security case No. 87/92 on ways of using incidents to serve the Brotherhood and activities of its members.

New facts have emerged on the clandestine role played by the professional associations of the lawyers, doctors, and engineers. They held fairs for durable goods and signed contracts with private companies owned by Brotherhood leaders to serve their interests. They also used the funds to open accounts for fictitious donations under the cover of collecting them for Muslim minorities and remitting part of the funds for Brotherhood activities. The investigation also revealed that the constant monitoring of Brotherhood activities confirms its support for the assassinations perpetrated by terrorists, particularly against senior state officials, as happened in the attempts on the lives of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. The Lawyers Association

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sent defense panel members belonging to the Brotherhood to defend the defendants, considering them its popular base and military wing supporting the Brotherhood.

Negotiations are under way to end the current differences between Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna and the members of the Brotherhood Council on the revenue from Islamic legacy books written by al- Banna's father, Hasan, since, as the legal heir, he considers them his own. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir: Southern Issue Close to Settlement

EA0102191695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has congratulated the masses of the Sudanese people and the Islamic nation on the advent of the august month of Ramadan. [passage omitted] In his regular meeting this morning with leaders of the media and press at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the president of the Republic expressed optimism that this blessed month would witness the settlement [hasm] of the issues of the rebellion. He said the present situation in the south confirms and points to this fact. His excellency explained that the rebellion in the Kapoeta area has been settled and declared that the coming few days will bring welcome news.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out that the process of peace from within is proceeding well.

About the forthcoming elections, his excellency explained that the process of registration had started seriously in some places and was faltering in others. He directed the people's committee, council committees, and secretariats of congress to complete the registers so that the councils of states could be convened before next March. His excellency pointed out the important role being played by the media in education on the electoral procedure and measures concerning them. [passage omitted]

In his meeting with the media leaders, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir commends the radio and said the radio's round-the-clock operation during the month of Ramadan was deemed to be a big development in the field of media work.

Statement Reveals Split Within Opposition Ranks

MM3101170695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jan 95 p5

[Reports by 'Uthman Mirghani in London and Zayn al-'Abidin Ahmad in Cairo: "Differences Continue in Opposition Ranks Over Self-Determination Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An indication of the continuing disagreement between the Sudanese opposition forces on ways of tackling the issue of self-determination demanded by a large number of southerners was the statement issued yesterday by the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP].

The statement implicitly criticized the position of the Ummah Party and also declared that it would not abide by the Chukudum agreement signed by the Ummah Party and Garang's movement [the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement—SPLM]. The DUP said in its statement that it respected the right of the other parties to hold any bilateral agreements but would not be committed to any agreements which run counter to its positions and policies.

The statement said that the DUP "has consistently refrained from raising controversal topics and issues outside the frameworks concerned with discussing and making decisions on them, and has remained silent about reports circulated in the political arena mostly with the aim of casting doubt on the party's constant and principled positions."

It added: "However, the DUP, in the face of the continuing attempts of certain political forces to create doubt and upstage them with the aim of making political gains and dividing the other forces, believes that it is important to clarify the following:

"1. The DUP's principled positions are still firmly upheld, especially its insistence on the unity of Sudan, people and territory.

"2. As a matter of principle, the party respects the right of any party to conclude bilateral agreements but it would not be committed to them if they ran counter to its positions and policies. That includes our party's position on the Chukudum agreement between the Ummah Party and the SPLM.

"3. The 27 December agreement the party signed with some of the opposition's political forces does not violate any of the party's constant principles. The Chukudum agreement was not part of that [27 December] agreement. The party's position on the disputed issues was that they should be deferred to the enlarged meeting to be held with the participation of all the other Democratic Grouping factions. That was approved.

"4. The DUP expresses extreme resentment of the attempts made by some to make political gains in these critical times at the expense of others who are in the same trench with them against a common enemy.

"5. The DUP reaffirms its full commitment to its position at the center of the political forces opposed to the regime and seeking to topple and uproot it. It emphasizes that our people's rights cannot be prejudiced or forfeited.

"6. The party appeals to all the factions of the Democratic National Grouping to set aside everything that

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might impede our just struggle and to mobilize all energies for the salvation of our people from the [National Islamic] Front's despotic and evil regime.

"7. The party hails the valiant steadfastness of our people at home in the face of the arragance and tyranny of the al-Bashir/al-Turabi regime."

The DUP statement appears to be a clarification aimed at completely separating the Chukudum agreement from the other agreement signed by political forces inlcuding the DUP, the Ummah Party, the "Sudanese Alliance Forces," and Garang's movement on 27 December, particularly on the issue of self-determination and arrangements for the transitional period.

Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan, the Ummah Party's official in charge of information abroad, in reply to a question about his party's reaction to the DUP statement, said: "That does not concern us. What we wish to clarify is that the following three main provisions of the Chukudum agreement were included in the 27 December agreement:

"1. Priority of conditional unity.
"2. Government decentralization to take the form of a federation or a confederation.
"3. Self-determination after a transitional period."

Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan said that the Chukudum agreement was different in that it contained peace arrangements for the transitional period. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Presents Report to Assembly

EA0102093995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Transitional National Assembly held its session today under the chairmansip of Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah. Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad informed the assembly about the country's financial position in the first half of fiscal 1994-1995. His Excellency explained the government's economic policies pointing out that the rate of inflation has been reduced to 65 percent. He confirmed that efforts are continuing to reduce inflation even further.

In his statement the finance minister explained the successes achieved in the fields of agriculture and industry, in tax and services [as heard], and in revenue collection. His Excellency also reviewed the positive achievements regarding the exchange rate, production capacity, and the availability of petroleum. He also pointed to the maintenance of the growth rate at an average of 8 percent. In his statement to the Transitional National Assembly, Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad said Sudan has been successful in reaching agreements with the IMF, OPEC, and numerous international banks, and in intensifying cooperation with all states of the world.

Amnesty International Visit Permission Withdrawn

EA0102194095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The consultative council for human rights decided at its meeting yesterday not to permit the organization, Amnesty International, to visit Sudan as it was scheduled to do at the end of next March because of claims recently reiterated by some officials belonging to the organization about the state of human rights in the country which they had not proven.

Dr. Ahmad al-Mufti, rapporteur for the consultative council for human rights, said Sudan was eager to work together with organizations that show a measure of neutrality and objectivity in dealing with human rights. He said Sudan had in the past repeatedly extended invitations to a number of UN officials and people working in the field of human rights to visit the country. His excellency described the conduct of Amnesty International as irresponsible and said that it cast numerous shadows on its neutrality in dealing with questions concerning human rights in Sudan.

He said the fact that Amnesty International had made up its mind in advance and its hostility to Sudan made the visit itself unjustifiable.

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Bahrain

Minister on Foreign 'Instigation' of Saboteurs

MM3101122495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 95 p3

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah by Chief Editor 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Manama on 27 January]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah says that "the term deportation does not apply to the saboteurs and extremists who had taken refuge in other states." He adds that "some of them had for many years lived abroad where they received training in the use of arms and acts of violence with the aim of undermining security and stability in the country."

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's Chief Editor 'Uthman al-'Umayr, Shaykh Muhammad said that "most of them acquired the citizenship of the states where they had taken refuge, and only sought renewal of their Bahraini passports when they decided to go back to Bahrain to implement their subversive scheme."

He pointed out that "those who returned in accordance with the amiri amnesty order pledged, in writing, to abide by the law, having lived long periods abroad and joined suspect organizations, but they did not honor their pledges and we had to take the appropriate measures against them."

He stressed that "Bahrain did not deport anyone but it asked those proven to have been involved in the riots and acts of sabotage to go back where they came from."

He said the law is clear. [passage omitted]

The interior minister did not play down what happened but he said that "the public security forces performed a major duty and were able to tackle all the acts of rioting and sabotage with the help of the public, and they succeeded in isolating the saboteurs and extremists and controlling the situation. The country now enjoys calm and stability."

He said that the method used by the saboteurs was alien to our society "which confirms what we have maintained all along, namely that they were instigated by some foreign circles for known objectives."

The minister denied that the incidents were linked to unemployment or other such factors as some people claim. He said that "unemployment exists in many states to varying degrees."

He said that the incidents began on 25 November. He said: "They began on a limited scale and kept on escalating until 18 December. By 19 December, when the Gulf summit was held, the situation was calm and continued to be so during the summit period." [passage omitted]

He added that "when the summit ended, tension returned as a result of foreign instigation and pressure on the extremist group and as a result of the role played by the foreign media in exaggerating the incidents and of that media's lack of accuracy and objectivity." [passage omitted]

He said that "with time, the picture was becoming clearer to us until we established beyond any doubt that what was going on was a premeditated plan hatched abroad for implementation at home, in the sense that there was a stray and misled Bahraini group supported by foreign official and unofficial circles with the aim of undermining security and stability in the country." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Muhammad confirmed that "there are still some small groups trying to make trouble and complete implementation of what was schemed for them, but they are isolated and ineffective, and we have warned them that deterrent measures would be taken against any attempt to jeopardize the security of the homeland or the people."

Shaykh Muhammad denied the claim that some people had submitted a petition, and he denied that the incidents were linked to any demands or claims. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said that the interrogation of the detainees confirmed that 'Ali Salman was the prime instigator of the acts of violence and that he participated in instigating dormant elements and inciting riots from the beginning. He was interrogated and he admitted what was attributed to him.

He said that "the method they used is rejected. Anyone who operates in the dark must have illegitimate objectives. It is wrong to say that their aim was to present a petition as they claim. Such people only act on orders from abroad." He added that "the ministry has all the evidence and proofs of their assault on individuals and on private and public property, and of the damage inflicted on the country." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Muhammad said that "the number of detainees is now in the region of 400 or 500, and that number is likely to decrease in light of the current interrogation of the detainees."

He added: "We are now at the end of the incidents and, of course, these people have a chance to return to the fold in the context and spirit of the one united family. Understanding should be in that context, because understanding and dialogue are the deep-rooted and long-standing special characteristics of this country."

He emphasized that "the detainees are treated humanely in accordance with the law, just like other detainees." He added that "there are continuous contacts and cooperation with the UN organizations concerned. Bahrain abides by the international charters and conventions in this connection." [passage omitted]

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Saudi Arabia

Bosnia's Izetbegovic Thanks King for Support

LD0102125795 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Feb 1, (SPA)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has expressed thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for his constant support for the Bosnian cause on all levels.

The Bosnian leader has also expressed thanks and appreciation to the Saudi people and government for their enormous efforts to help the Bosnian cause, according to a statement published by the temporary daily Arabic-language bulletin al-Bathelun, which is published within the framework of the second Bosnia week in Riyadh.

Izetbegovic expressed happiness and appreciation for organizing the second Bosnia week and extended special thanks to Riyadh governor and chairman of the fund-raising commission for Bosnia- Herzegovina Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

He stressed the need for more support to Bosnian fighters who defend their homeland and religion.

Total donations until Tuesday [31 January] evening amounted to SR [Saudi riyals] 50,152,062, according to the director of the executive bureau Sa'ud Bin-Muhammad al-Rashud, who added that the commission has received SR 6 million from acting Mecca Governor Prince Sa'ud (Bin-Abklmuhsin).

United Arab Emirates

Paper Faults U.S. on Israeli-Egyptian Row Over NPT

JN3101095095 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Jan 95 p 1

[Editorial: "An Unsustainable Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the meaning of the U.S. view that Egypt's decision not to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] unless Israel does is a purely Egyptian-Israeli affair, and that the United States has nothing to do with it?

Why then is the U.S. Administration demonstrating all this zeal, and applying all sorts of pressure on all states to make them sign the NPT? All world states, with the exception of Israel, are strongly urged by the United States to sign the NPT, although what is at stake is world security, and not just Middle East security.

All Arabs have felt a flagrant contradiction between the U.S. stand toward the DPRK, because the latter had the potential of becoming a nuclear power on the one hand, and the U.S. stand toward Israel, which is, undoubtedly, in possession of 200-300 nuclear warheads, on the other. Moreover, there are no doubts about the substantial ground the Israeli nuclear program has covered thus far.

Any circumvention of this issue is no longer condonable. It is not only a security issue, but also a survival issue. For, the nuclear warheads that are currently in Israel's possession are sufficient to kill life in the entire Middle East region. As for Israeli generals, they have threatened to use the force of "their formidable army" to make the Arabs humiliatingly acquiesce to their terms.

This situation is unsustainable. It is not only the Arabs who could suffer from this situation. In fact, this situation could finish off world strategic interests, chief among which are U.S. strategic interests. It follows from this that the United States does not have the right to say that it has nothing to do with the issue. Instead of applying pressure and making threats of withholding aid, the U.S. Administration must firmly use its influence with the Israelis to prevent them from continuing to play the game of death.

Unless Washington does so, the Arabs will have no choice but to create a deterrent force to protect themselves against blackmail. And this is not impossible to achieve. It is close at hand, and within reach.

Yemen

Ex-Legal Affairs Minister Heads Team at Riyadh Talks

MM0102144995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Salih's Adviser Heads Yemen Delegation on Legal Committee; al-Ahmar: I Will Try Fasting for Ramadan in Riyadh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh—While Isma'il al-Wazir, legal adviser to the Yemeni presidency and former legal affairs minister, arrived in Riyadh yesterday to head the Yemeni side on the legal committee which will prepare the Saudi-Yemeni memorandum of understanding, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, said that he "will try fasting for Ramadan in Riyadh."

Shaykh al-Ahmar's statement indicates his determination to follow up the legal committee's work and to ensure success in removing the blemishes from Saudi-Yemeni relations.

Isma'il al-Wazir arrived in Saudi Arabia at the request of the negotiation team's leadership to head the Yemeni side on the new high-level committee, which is not going to focus its work on settling the dispute over border demarcation but will prepare a memorandum of understanding to reconcile the Saudi and Yemeni sides over the basic differences, including settling the question of referring the dispute to arbitration.

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Sources close to the Yemeni delegation have said that the political negotiations have been suspended completely until the legal memorandum of understanding is prepared.

The sources said that the committee has completed the memorandum's preamble and three articles, and what remains is the detailed clauses referred to the committee by the negotiation team for it to consult over and draw up an acceptable final version.

The sources said that, if the legal committee fails to achieve a solution to these clauses, they are likely to be referred to higher quarters to make a political decision to resolve the issue, maybe at the summit which the sources expect to bring together Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Saudi side rejects the Yemeni proposal for arbitration, which is why Dr. 'Abd-al-Muttalib al-Nafisah, head of the experts branch in the Saudi Council of Ministers General Secretariat, and Isma'il al-Wazir, head of the Yemeni side, are focusing on reconciling views on this point.

It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni side is demanding that the border issue in the areas not included in the al-Ta'if agreement should also be discussed. Because the agreement does not include the territory of the former Democratic Republic of South Yemen [the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen], while the Republic of Yemen is claiming legal jurisdiction over all Yemeni territory since unity.

Southern Yemenis Return Home Under Amnesty

NC3101210895 Paris AFP in English 2047 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Jan 31 (AFP)—More than 150 southern Yemenis who fled the country during the two-month civil war last year returned to Yemen on Tuesday [31 January] from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said.

The 153 returned as part of an "amnesty" declared by President 'Ali Abdallah Salih during and after the May-July war, the official agency SABA said.

Since the beginning of August last year, Yemeni authorities have announced the return of 7,000 refugees both civilians and soldiers, although the amnesty officially expired on August 15.

About 10,000 southerners fled when Salih's northern troops captured the southern stronghold of Aden. They sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Yemen, Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The amnesty does not extend to 16 of the ringleaders who headed the move for southern Yemen to break away and become independent.

They include former southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who declared himself president of the breakaway republic, but later fled to Oman.

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Thousands of Undeclared Artillery Shells Discovered

MM0102155995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "International Inspection Teams Seize Artillery Shells Hidden by Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York—AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable sources that the international inspection teams belonging to the special committee assigned to eliminate banned Iraqi weapons "found last Wednesday during a surprise inspection operation thousands of artillery shells not declared by the Iraqi authorities." Committee sources said that Iraq "used the same type of shells in the chemical armament program by using mustard gas as ammunition."

The sources pointed out that Iraq declared the existence of 83,000 artillery shells. But the discovery of some 7,000 artillery shells not declared before aroused the committee's suspicion that Iraq may still have in its possession an unknown quantity of shells.

The committee's sources said that hiding these shells means that "some Iraqi authorities" are continuing to conceal information about Iraqi armament programs before the Gulf war. They were keen to stress that these shells are "dual purpose" and can be used in a way that is not prohibited for purposes other than chemical armament.

It is worth mentioning that the committee recently raised the issue of the Iraqi authorities' concealment of information about armament programs. The committee's chairman, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, stressed the need to reveal all previous programs as a fundamental element in the implementation of long-term observation of Iraq's armament.

AL-HAYAH has learned that Ekeus will go to Baghdad on 16 February in the framework of the efforts aimed at forcing the Iraqi authorities to reveal previous programs. Ekeus told AL-HAYAH: "If Iraq decides to fully reveal (its programs), it will be able to clean its record before the next review of the sanctions in April."

Ekeus will head for Washington tomorrow to hold talks with U.S. officials on the Iraqi issue. He visited London last week and intends to go to Paris before his visit to Baghdad. He will visit Moscow at the end of his tour.

BABIL Urges Serious UN Stand Against Embargo

JN0102193195 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Amir al-Hulw: "Awaiting a Serious International Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ever since the UN Security Council obliged the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM] chairman, at France's request, to submit monthly reports on the commission's work, the United States has been coming up with monthly theatricals, precisely on the days of the review, in order to disturb the atmosphere at the debate. The observations it has made in those theatricals have nothing at all to do with the Security Council resolutions and do not justify the continuation of the oil embargo, whose terms are clearly defined under Paragraph (22) of Resolution 687. This is obvious to everyone. Even the American paper, THE WASHINGTON POST, referred to the subject in an editorial last Saturday when it said, verbatim: The United States is increasing its conditions, because no sooner had Iraq fulfilled these conditions, such as the monitoring of weapons and the recognition of Kuwait's boundaries, than Washington added new ones based on resolutions which have no direct relationship with oil exports. The United States is using the tactic of exaggeration.

The strange thing is, this intransigent U.S. stand, which is not in harmony with UN Security Council resolutions, has managed so far to block every objective effort by the international community, including the big powers which are permanent members of the Security Council, to lift the oil embargo on Iraq. This means the United States is practicing its hegemony and arrogance on everyone for the sake of safeguarding its own interests, thereby ignoring other states' interests and economic and trade relations with Iraq. The United States does not want Iraqi oil to return to world markets so its agents can continue to export their oil at the expense of Iraq's share and to pay their bills to the U.S. Treasury. The continuation of the present conditions is a gross injustice not only against the Iraqi people, who have been under siege for five years, but also against other states affected by the continuation of the oil embargo on Iraq. If these states are indeed serious about defending their interests and international laws, then they must stand firmly against the continuation of this U.S. behavior which conflicts with logic and all legal and humanitarian considerations. The next Security Council debate will be a test of this seriousness.

*UK Said Closer to Rejecting U.S. Position on Iraq

95LH0060A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Hamid Gharyafi in London: "Russia Prepares for 'The Battle to Freeze the Embargo' Against Iraq; Tariq 'Aziz Participates in Moscow; and Europe Fears Lest It Become the Forerunner of Other Battles!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The matter of "freezing" the Western embargo against Iraq has entered an advanced stage of political and diplomatic developments. They are taking place at full speed between Baghdad, Moscow, Paris, and Peking, despite the ossified American stubbornness and its attempt to crush, or at least soften it.

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The visit of the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz, to the Russian capital last Wednesday [7 December] might have taken place in order to put together the Iraqi-Russian joint working plan from which the anticipated extensive activity to effectuate the idea of "the freeze" sprang. It was the Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, who first proposed it after Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait. According to news accounts, as of the middle of last month, President Saddam Husayn had entrusted the foreign component of the political leadership to Tariq 'Aziz personally, who then adopted Kozyrev's idea under the guidance of the political leadership.

What is remarkable is that the visit of the head of Iraqi diplomacy took place before the publication of the report that was prepared by Rolf Ekeus, head of the United Nations committee that is entrusted with overseeing the implementation of Security Council resolutions. An agreement might be reached with the Russian minister to confirm the credibility of Baghdad's determination to implement the major and most important aspects of its obligations in the disarmament area. This is in addition to the decision to recognize Kuwait and its charted borders, paving the way for Moscow to openly undertake a campaign to freeze the embargo, or at least to ease the sanctions until the terms of the international measures could be worked out leading to the time when any necessity of retaining any embargo would vanish automatically.

In this, his delicate mission to Moscow, Tariq 'Aziz is not unaware of the difficulties that might face his joint plan with Kozyrev because of Washington's unchanged position toward Iraq. This is in spite of that massive disintegration within the Security Council between its five members and in spite of the deep fissure that has befallen the "international alliance" and sliced it into two parts. One of the two is under the leadership of America and Britain who are crawling on their stomachs on the petroleum highway, the "deity" of the 20th century whom they worship.

The "freeze battle" will be so hazardous as to make the Europeans regard it with a measure of caution and fear because it might lead to the collapse of the shaky citadel of confidence between Moscow and Washington. Lately it has been subjected to sharp blows on many different international matters, especially last Monday [5 December] at the Budapest summit in Hungary between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton concerning the two more hazardous matters. These are the Bosnian war and the permanent removal of the Eastern European (formerly communist) countries from the Russian sphere of influence and their collective or separate incorporation into the North Atlantic Alliance, which is under the American sphere of influence.

In spite of the fact that the START I treaty for strategic weapons disarmament—between America, Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan—entered the implementation stage at the ninth summit of the European security and cooperation conference, a tense atmosphere overshadowed the conference at a reception attended by the leaders of 52 states in the Hungarian capital, and continued to do so up until its end. The seeming dissatisfaction of the American and Russian leaders made European observers expect a new confrontation between the two countries. The matter of freezing the embargo against Iraq during the next few weeks could serve as its stormy beginning.

Information that was leaked from Moscow to the British capital indicates that the motive for the attack that Yeltsin made at the summit against the idea of having his allies join the Atlantic camp and Clinton's response that he would not permit anyone to veto the idea had involved other issues. Russian intelligence had accurate information on the presence of CIA elements inside the Chechnyan republic to aid secession.

However, the Americans who received a protest from Moscow on the matter denied having any role in that republic, which is within Russian borders, accusing the Yeltsin administration of "provoking" them in order to position itself to lead other battles on "second fronts," be they Iraqi, Bosnian, or Eastern European.

West European experts state that the dust will soon settle on the battle for Russian existence, which is facing flagrant American interference to reveal a coherent Russian-French-Chinese alliance. The first item on its agenda could be the matter of lifting the embargo against Iraq. If it were able to conclude this matter inside the Security Council and through its political pressures outside it, then it would move on to other matters in Bosnia and the Eastern European countries.

These experts sense the possibility of a change in the behavior of the British Government that in the end might lead the English to join that alliance, stripping Washington of its last ally in its international struggle to be at the helm of the world. The British, who openly support the French on Bosnia and who are threatening to pull out from the international emergency force there and who are refusing to lift the embargo on arms shipments to the Bosnian Muslims, might not take long to lend their support on the Iraq matter, also to lift the embargo. There is an actual and sharp division within the government of John Major and at the level of the British House of Commons about the prolongation of the embargo against Iraq after its recognition of Kuwait. This is the foundation on which the structure of all the resolutions of the United Nations, the Security Council, and other international aid organizations was built.

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Official Statements, Commentaries on Cairo Summit Reported

Peres Holds News Conference

TA0102144895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1319 GMT 1 Feb 95

["Impromptu" news conference by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with correspondents at Ben-Gurion Airport upon Peres' return from Cairo; broadcast in progress—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] ...It will be a four-side conference with the participation of the Egyptian president, the prime minister of Israel, the king of Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] chairman.

First of all, I would like to note the significance of this encounter. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time such a coalition of peace—three states and one autonomy—has convened to hold a discussion, to promote the peace process. The agenda, which we have already discussed, will be future-oriented. I think this encounter is the most important indication for all the Middle East states that the peace process is continuing and making progress. President Mubarak told me that the objectives of the Alexandria summit had been misinterpreted, because that conference had also aimed to call for the continuation of the peace process.

The main issues on tomorrow's agenda will be the political aspects of peace, economic cooperation, ways of dealing with terror, as well as new issues, such as education and so forth.

Today we met with the Egyptian president and foreign minister. The meeting lasted two hours and was held in a very good atmosphere. I think the meeting contributed a lot toward dispersing the clouds that have marred relations between us and Egypt recently. I left the meeting feeling we are back on the positive track of cooperation, which has always characterized our relations with Egypt.

I believe Egypt and Mubarak played a leading role not only in the peace process and not only in settling relations between his country and ours but also in the entire Palestinian move. In my opinion, the meeting between the Jordanian king and the PA chairman, as well as the meeting between the Egyptian president and the Jordanian king, serve the cause of peace in the Middle East, because peace is an issue between us and the Arabs, as well as among the Arabs themselves. Conflicts either exacerbate the situation or generate more conflicts.

The summit due to take place tomorrow is symbolic of the new political map. Until now, there were nationalistic conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians, between the Arab and the Jewish peoples. Now new coalitions are beginning to emerge: one, composed of Arabs and Jews, of Palestinians and Israelis, that promotes peace, and another that is attempting to destroy peace. In fact, a battle over peace is being waged right now. We have not attained peace yet, but for the first time, a battle is being waged in the Middle East in order to attain peace rather than score a military victory. I have no doubt that peace is the right option for all the nations, and I believe we will be able to attain it.

[Political correspondent Shlomo Raz of Qol Yisra'el] Mr. Foreign Minister, one party is conspicuous by its absence from this conference. I am referring to the Syrians—unless the rumors that a Syrian representative is planning to attend are true.

[Peres] No, no Syrian representative is expected to attend. No one from Syria will attend, because Syria has not joined the peace coalition as yet.

[Udi Segal of IDF Radio] Mr. Peres, we heard the ambassadorial talks may resume in Washington this week. Can you confirm that Mubarak informed the Syrian president of the summit to be held in Cairo tomorrow? How did the Egyptian president describe the Syrian president's reaction?

[Peres] The Egyptians updated the Syrians, but I do not know whether this took place on the level of foreign ministers or presidents. The Syrians were asked whether they had any special requests or proposals, and their answer was apparently that they had none.

[Unidentified correspondent] What results do you expect the encounter to have in view of the fact that the negotiations with the Palestinians are stuck?

[Peres] First of all, the encounter aims to signal to all the Middle East countries that the peace process is continuing. What is stuck with the Palestinians is not the peace process but rather the Palestinian role in the security field. If they carry out their part, the negotiations will definitely be resumed as previously planned.

[Raz] In this context, sir, does tomorrow's summit herald the de facto resumption of the Israeli-PLO talks on the continued implementation of the....

[Peres, interrupting] The talks were never officially suspended. In any event, a meeting on the elections is due to take place in Cairo next week; it has not been called off. For the negotiations to make real progress, however, the Palestinians must demonstrate and prove their ability to deal with terrorism.

[Raz] And they have not done so to date.

[Peres] There have been a few unsatisfactory starts.

[Correspondent] Mr. Peres, what happened to get a quadripartite summit set up so quickly?

[Peres] We began to discuss this matter with 'Amr Musa in Davos last Friday. In fact, we had a very long conversation, which lasted into the wee hours of the morning. I voiced my concerns and reservations about

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what is happening in the Middle East. In view of all that, the Egyptian president invited me to Egypt, where he informed me of this idea. I think it is a very good idea.

[Correspondent] Is there a new understanding on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] between us and Egypt, following your talks in Cairo today?

[Peres] There are at least two understandings: 1) that it is an issue for bilateral and not quadripartite discussion, which means that the NPT issue will not be raised at tomorrow's encounter; 2) Israel does not intend to sign the NPT, because Israel's stand on this issue has not changed.

[Correspondent] Is Israel planning any gesture in this respect?

[Peres] I do not know what gesture means; the term is too grand for me.

[Correspondent] Mr. Peres, I would like to understand: Did the Egyptian president approach the Syrians and suggest that they send a representative to tomorrow's summit?

[Peres] No. He informed them that there is going to be a summit and asked if they had anything to propose for the agenda. They replied that they had nothing.

[Arabic correspondent Shlomo Ganor of Israel TV Channel 1] Is anything concrete expected to happen after the summit ends, Mr. Peres?

[Peres] What do you mean by concrete?

[Ganor] Certain decisions?

[Peres] I assume that after the conference, a joint statement will be issued. Such a statement is in itself a very concrete thing, just as the conference itself is. It is, we can say, unprecedented in the Middle East.

[Correspondent] Was the conference Mubarak's initiative?

[Peres] It was, to a large extent.

Peres on Summit, Syrian Track, Terrorism

TA0202084995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondents Mikhal Gazit and Gil Yerushalmi; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gazit] Foreign Minister Peres, can we learn anything about the depth of the crisis in the political process from the secrecy and speed with which the Cairo four-way meeting was organized?

[Peres] Why is it that whenever something good happens people search for a negative cause?

[Gazit] Let us talk about the empty half of the cup.

[Peres] There is no empty cup here; I do not accept this. We have dealt with this issue for a week. We started in Davos, but there was no point in publicizing the matter until everything was arranged in the most satisfactory manner. This is an unprecedented occasion. Look, let us not flip out; whenever something good happens the entire press and media are looking for the negative causes and aspects.

[Gazit] Perhaps this is our job.

[Peres] I too have my job.

[Gazit] The Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian publics, however, are losing faith in the political process. This is no secret; you are all aware of the fact that you are losing the street.

[Peres] Who determined this?

[Yerushalmi] Mr. Peres, it is perhaps possible to say that, even if the public is not averse to the peace process, it is tired of historic occasions and longs for an improvement in the situation on the ground.

[Peres] Look, we are not the national theater company. We are creating here a first-rate political precedent; this is the first time that such a forum has met in the Middle East. Once and for all we must rid ourselves of all this condescending attitude of pessimism and skepticism directed against all we do. Naturally, the public grieves and laments the grave attack, and so do I. I am not familiar, however, with even one party that recommends that we return to Gaza. So what kind of regrets can there be? I believe we should proceed. I realize there are masses of opponents and skeptics; it is so pleasant to don the feathers of skepticism.

This summit, however, is a uniquely significant political event. I do not want to exaggerate its significance, but on the other hand I do not want people to downplay it.

[Yerushalmi] Beyond this, however, can we expect any practical steps by the sides?

[Peres] Yes. For example, a permanent ministerial committee of this four-way forum will be established for dealing with economic and other issues to be decided. This committee will meet in Washington as soon as next Sunday [5 February]. This should not be undervalued.

Look, up to now relations between any two parties among the four have not been excellent. Only a month ago it was hard to imagine such a summit's being convened. I am not saying that it will solve all the problems, but it does constitute another step in the clear course leading toward a changed Middle East.

[Gazit] Minister Peres, does this course exclude al-Asad?

[Peres] No. We are not leaving him out of the picture; he himself is responsible for this. We have not pushed him outside. In our opening positions we offered him no less than we offered any other Arab leader. It seems that

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al-Asad has abandoned the path of war, but has still not married the peace process. He is at the stage of political bachelorhood. He must decide when he wants to make the next move.

[Gazit] Is there any link between today's summit and talk about the resumption of the Washington talks? Ambassador al- Mu'allim is returning to Washington.

[Peres] I do not think so. Perhaps, on the contrary, al-Mu'allim's return is a result of today's summit.

[Yerushalmi] Turning to the Palestinian issue, Mr. Peres, does Israel intend to announce any gestures toward the Palestinians in today's summit, such as easing the closure, releasing prisoners, or opening the safe passage?

[Peres] The issue here is not gestures. We are demanding that the Palestinian Authority take more decisive measures—we are not referring to ostentatious statements, but to concrete measures aimed at preventing the continuation of terrorism to the best of their ability. This is our principal demand on which we will continue to stand firm.

Shahal on Summit, Jerusalem Security

TA0202122695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says today's summit is a historic event. The police minister spoke to Amy Rhodes during a tour of Jerusalem's Old City this morning.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] This is a historical meeting, a meeting of four leaders dealing with problems that concern all of them, and it is a part of the normalization, that Israel is a part of the Middle East. We have matters that concern our security, and certainly there is a place to coordinate with other heads of state and with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. I believe that it will strengthen the peace process; certainly, I hope that it will encourage President al-Asad to join this meeting. I would not wonder that in the future we shall see meetings of more heads of state gathering in Cairo, hopefully in the future also in Jerusalem, dealing with problems that concern the region.

[Rhodes] Tomorrow is the first Friday of Ramadan. What efforts are being taken in Jerusalem, what special precautions are being put into place to control the security situation?

[Shahal] For a long time we are following the event of holy days, and certainly Ramadan is a very important month, and the police force has been strengthened for that purpose. I hope that we are going to give security to every person, whatever his religion or his nation, and I certainly pray that we are going to overcome all the problems. [end recording]

And the security measures mentioned by Minister Shahal include some 1,000 police who will be deployed at roadblocks around the capital, in Palestinian villages on the outskirts of the city, and especially in the Old City, for Ramadan prayer tomorrow. Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz told Qol Yisra'el that if large crowds demonstrate or in any way endanger Israel's security, police will not hesitate to prevent large numbers of worshipers from gathering at the al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 2 February, reporting on Shahal's visit to East Jerusalem, includes a question posed by correspondent Aviv Bushinsky to Shahal about meetings at Orient House, to which Shahal replies: "Israel bans and will continue to ban any activity conducted on behalf of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Jerusalem. We do not think the troika ministers should hold a meeting at Orient House. If there is any issue they want to raise with the Palestinians, the address for this is Gaza or Jericho. I do not mind their drinking coffee there. But in principle foreign ministers who come to speak with Israeli representatives also have to meet the PA representatives."

[Asked whether he will prevent the Orient House meeting, Shahal says: "First, I hope the ministers themselves will understand that such a meeting is undesirable. If it becomes necessary, however, we will not hesitate to act on the basis of the legal tools we possess."]

Paper Raps Peres 'Perception' of Peace

TA0202102295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A Show to the Rescue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres pointed out yesterday, today's Cairo summit meeting is unprecedented. It is the first time three Arab leaders meet together with an Israeli prime minister for a political discussion. Displaying again an incomparable sense for the dramatic, Peres called it a meeting of the "peace coalition;" a signal to the world the Oslo agreement is alive, well, and going forward.

It is a tribute to Peres's diplomatic skills that he was able to round up King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, and Husni Mubarak at short notice. He even persuaded Bill Clinton to endow it with special significance by meeting with Peres in Washington immediately after.

But by describing every summit meeting as a breakthrough and assigning it great historic significance, Peres raises expectations that can seldom be fulfilled. Indeed, the gap between these expectations and the situation on the ground is becoming wider every day.

A realistic glimpse of what is happening away from the press conferences and solemn declarations was provided by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahaq on Tuesday [31 January]. Ben-Eli'ezer told Israeli reporters in Washington what all Israelis already know: the Oslo agreement, which created general

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euphoria immediately following the signing ceremony on the White House lawn, has been losing support in direct proportion to the increase in terrorism.

The most recent atrocity, the massacre at Bet Lid, has made it impossible for the government to implement the next stage of the agreement. The army will not withdraw from the Arab population centers in the foreseeable future, nor will the government allow the release of terrorists from Israeli jails.

Shahaq has revealed what official pronouncements have been trying to fudge: that the Fatah, 'Arafat's own militia, has participated in a number of terrorist actions since the agreement was signed. This is not just another flagrant violation of the agreement. It is a clear indication not only that " 'Arafat has failed to combat terrorism, but that he still resorts to violence whenever he finds it necessary. Indeed, Peres's reference to 'Arafat as a member of the "peace coalition" is nothing if not Orwellian.

Nor has the government succeeded in dissuading the Europeans from meeting with PLO officials in Jerusalem's Orient House. The foreign ministers of France and Spain and the deputy foreign minister of Germany intend to meet Faysal al-Husayni in this Palestinian "foreign ministry" later this month. This, despite the recently passed legislation which enables the government to prevent such meetings, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's threat to abort the Oslo process if Orient House is used for such purposes.

To round out the gloomy picture, Shahaq also said that, in the past few months, the PLO factions opposed to the agreement have increased their activities against Israel and its allies in southern Lebanon.

To rationalize this discrepancy between the rosy dream of peace and the dark Middle East reality, Peres has made yet another momentous announcement. From now on, nationalities do not exist in the region, he said. The Middle East is divided into a peace coalition of Arabs and Israelis on the one hand, and Arab and Israeli enemies of peace on the other.

It borders on the incredible that an Israeli foreign minister can compare Islamic terrorists with Israelis who, desiring peace, doubt that the Oslo agreement can produce it. But what makes his perception of the situation even worse is that he has subscribed to the ludicrous notion that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and the radical PLO factions are killing Israelis because they want to destroy the Oslo agreement.

The fact is that what these groups want is not to stop the process, but to accelerate it. The "extremists," just as eager to have Israel leave the territories as the PLO "moderates," simply believe that since terrorism made Israel agree to withdraw, more terrorism will force it to withdraw faster. (Had Hamas and Islamic Jihad truly wanted to destroy the process, they could have done it overnight by attacking 'Arafat and his militia.) Indeed, Mubarak and 'Arafat have already said that the answer to Islamic terror is to hasten the pace of implementation. And they are echoed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who wants Israel to enter "final status" negotiations immediately.

Peres seems to believe that irreconcilable differences can be resolved with grandiose gestures and dramatic photo opportunities. The trouble is that his interlocutors prefer something more substantive—like Israeli concessions. And they seem to know that Peres will do almost anything not to spoil a good show.

Commentary: 'No Solution' in Summit

TA0202094695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Feb 95 p 2

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "The Process Receives Mouth-to-Mouth Resuscitation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The thousands of employees who received their pay slips yesterday had eyes only for the bottom line: How much? They were less interested in the reasons for the new deductions. The public feels the same about the Cairo encounter. What will the bottom line be? Will there be less terror? It seems the public no longer enjoys the ceremonies and productions staged by the region's leaders. The answer is that the security forces should continue their efforts to find a solution to the suicide bombings, because Cairo will provide no solution.

The Cairo summit is an almost desperate attempt to save the Israeli-Palestinian peace process from death. To save it from another outbreak of the intifadah. It is an attempt to give a televised mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to something the viewers have grown weary of. The group picture featuring the conference attendees will convey a message. The encounter was possible because those invited share one strong interest: They are all apprehensive about their standing. They are dissatisfied. The Cairo summit is an umbrella that will shelter a crowded foursome, each of whom will attempt to profit somehow from the common effort. Mubarak, Husayn, and Rabin will continue taming 'Arafat and demanding that he take control of the Strip at last.

The attending absentees: Syria will not be represented at the summit. Al-Asad was unable to prevent the encounter with the participation of Israel, but this does not mean that the summit will in any way change the Syrian stands. The rejectionist organizations will not attend either. Those who were left out of the picture may be able to void the summit's resolutions of all content, leaving the participants with nothing but their photos.

Hamas Threatens 42 Suicide Attacks During Ramadan

TA0202085495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Feb 95 p 8

[Report by Shlomo Cesna]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip pledge to carry out 42 suicide attacks during the month of Ramadan. The security forces discovered their plan in a leaflet disseminated in the Gaza Strip.

It will be noted that the Hamas activists' motivation to carry out suicide attacks has grown following the success of the recent bombings.

IAI To Launch 'Spy' Satellite in 'Near Future'

TA3001134295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 95 p A6

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is preparing to launch a spy satellite into orbit from the Air Force's test site in Palmahim in the near future. The experimental Ofeq-1 satellite was launched from the same location in 1988, and the Ofeq-2 in 1990.

Several preparatory operations will be carried out at the launch site in anticipation of the launch. The defense establishment, the military industries, and the air force will use a large number of maintenance and engineering personnel for the launch. The experiment depends on weather conditions and safety factors.

Over the last month several launch dates were considered, but it was decided to cancel them for technical reasons and find an alternative date. Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] is supervising the operation with the defense establishment. It is hoped that the technical difficulties encountered in the previous launch attempts will be overcome.

The satellite will cruise at a relatively low altitude of several hundred kilometers, circling earth several times daily while focusing on several selected photo targets. Alongside the military photo program, IAI is also working on a project to disseminate high- quality satellite pictures for civilian use.

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Foreign Minister, Papers Comment on Cairo Summit

Al-Kabariti Wants Peace Mechanism

JN0102192395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received an invitation from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to break the fast with his excellency tomorrow night, Thursday, on the beginning of this blessed month.

It is expected that the iftar [breakfast banquet] will be followed by a four-way meeting that will comprise the Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestinian, and Israeli sides to discuss the current situation of the peace process and other issues included in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was signed in Cairo last year.

Talks will also deal with ways to advance the peace process and to overcome the obstacles facing it on some tracks in order to realize a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the meeting will be held as a result of consultations and contacts between the four leaders.

He said Jordan hopes a mechanism will be worked out to advance all dimensions of the peace process, especially those on the Palestinian-Israeli track, because Jordan believes real peace should be comprehensive, and that the Palestinians should be able to exercise their rights in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and on the basis of the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

Political circles are attaching much importance to the four-way meeting because it is a step needed to advance the peace process.

Paper on Summit, Arab Reconciliation

JN0202083495 Amman THE STAR in English 2-8 Feb 95 p 1

["Special to THE STAR" by Ahmad Shakir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Attention will shift to Cairo today where an important quadrilateral summit will be held bringing together, for the first time, the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the PLO. His Majesty King Husayn accepted an invitation from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to attend the meeting.

Informed sources said the summit, hosted by President Mubarak, will decide the future of the peace process especially in terms of reaching a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, the summit will pave the way for resuming Israeli- Syrian contacts. The Arab leaders will reassert the need for a quick transfer of wide ranging powers to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the framework of the Palestinian self-rule agreement between the PLO and Israel.

The Arab leaders will also call on Israel to speed up the holding of Palestinian elections and the release of Palestinian detainees.

Observes said the Egyptian initiative will reconfirm Egypt's role in the peace process especially after the Alexandria summit which was held last month and brought together the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The quadrilateral summit will also bring about steps to build bridges of confidence between the Arab and the Israeli sides in an attempt to focus on regional cooperation and pinpoint specific projects to be discussed in the Amman economic summit to be held in October.

The summit will give a much needed boost to the quadrilateral ministerial meeting which will be held in Cairo on Saturday at the level of foreign ministers and will focus on the issue of about 800,000 refugees and displaced persons of the 1967 war.

At another level, a ministerial meeting will be held in Taba on 7 February bringing together the ministers of trade and industry of Jordan, Egypt, the PLO and Israel to discuss areas of cooperation especially the setting up of a regional common market.

Meanwhile, informed sources have described the visit of Foreign Minister Mr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates as successful. They added that the coming weeks will witness a number of bilateral and trilateral Arab meeting aiming at preparing the ground for the convening of an Arab summit to be held in Riyadh or Cairo in June. The sources said relations between Amman and Cairo have returned to normal.

The same sources confirmed reports that a reconciliation meeting between Iraqi and Gulf officials is being prepared for to be held in Qatar. They said Iraq will reassure Gulf countries on its commitment to UN resolutions including its recognition of Kuwait.

Finally, Jordanian diplomatic movements will include the holding of a meeting between the foreign ministers of Jordan and Syria next week in Damascus to remove misunderstandings between the two countries and to prepare the ground for Arab reconciliation.

Paper: Summit 'Very Significant'

JN0202093295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Feb 95 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Cairo's Quadrilateral Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The quadrilateral summit expected to convene in Cairo today is in itself a significant event. It also constitutes a very significant development in the peace process, which still faces major obstacles on its main track, the Palestinian track.

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The importance of the Cairo summit is heightened by the fact that it will bring together for the first time the parties that have covered varying distances on the path of peace. It is also heightened by the fact that it is being convened in the midst of signs of a retreat in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which threatens the option of peace in the region and gives impetus to the forces of extremism.

The series of bilateral contacts and meetings that preceded this summit—including Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's meeting with his brother His Majesty King Husayn in al-'Aqabah, the Husayn-'Arafat meeting a few days ago, and the recent Egyptian-Israeli contacts—have provided the best possible atmosphere to convene this quadrilateral summit.

However, we realize in advance that the final results of the Cairo summit today hinge principally on the Israeli party's willingness to remove the obstacles it places on the path of peace, particularly the settlement activity that is the unexpected and ominous results of what appeared to be peace one and a half years ago.

In light of all that has been said, we hope that the meeting of the four leaders concerned with completing the Middle East peace process will achieve all that is desired from it. We also hope that this summit will open the road once again to the train of peace which, if it stops at any station, will waste all that has been achieved at all the other stations. That task should be shouldered primarily by Israel.

Paper Hopes Summit To Provide Peace

JN0202103095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 2 Feb 95 p 15

[Editorial: "The Cairo Summit and the Desired Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's summit in Cairo has special significance because it will examine ways to advance the Middle East peace process. The summit is also important because it comes in the wake of several developments in the region, including bilateral meetings between the concerned parties. This is in addition to the obstacles on the ground that threaten to foil the peace process in its entirety. The peace process has so far managed to achieve some successes that have heralded an era of peace in the region and an end to the disasters and tribulations brought about by war.

Apparently, the obstacles created by Israel—which are negatively affecting the peace process—are one reason for the holding of the Cairo summit today. The summit will discuss the hurdles that could destroy what has been achieved so far. The purpose of this is to enable the parties to pursue the peace process to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Jordan has long called for establishing such peace and sought to make it a reality. Jordan has also warned of the consequences of the failure of the peace process, which would turn the region into a volcano that could erupt at any moment.

Jordan has repeatedly warned against losing Arab solidarity and coordination, since it knows full well that fragmentation and disintegration would eventually weaken Arab performance on the negotiating tracks, minimize the chances for regaining rights, and strengthen the Israeli side and increase its arrogance. This would also pave the road for Israel to consolidate the status quo, and thus maintain the injustice, crimes, and usurpation of rights. There is no need to restate that Greater Israel is a legend that extends all over the Arab territories from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Thanks to the prowess of its Hashemite leadership and His Majesty King Husayn's acumen, political astuteness, and adherence to national and pan-Arab principles, Jordan has managed to restore its legitimate rights to its waters and lands. Jordan would never abandon its Arab brothers. It will continue to seek—through its contacts and meetings and efforts—to achieve Arab solidarity and translate the slogan of just, comprehensive, and durable peace into reality. This will no doubt take place when the Arabs achieve solidarity and unity. Thus, they will be able to face challenges and work together to remove the obstacles that threaten the security and stability of the region and prevent the restoration of their usurped rights.

Israeli ambitions are not confined to lands. Nothing can check these ambitions except imposing the just and comprehensive peace we all seek. Will the Cairo summit pave the road for achieving the desired peace?

Bilateral Postal Links With Israel Begin 6 Feb

JN0102154095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel have decided to exchange postal services as of Monday, 6 February, in implementation of the provisions enshrined in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The postal services that will be exchanged by air will involve the transportation of dispatches, letters, and parcels.

In a related development, the Ministry of Post and Communications has taken the necessary arrangements to exchange postal services with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] areas. The exchange of these services will start once the PNA's Post Department completes its preparations in this regard.

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Information Minister Comments on Cairo Summit

JN0202124795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1211 GMT 2 Feb 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has told Radio Monte Carlo that the quadripartite summit to be held in Cairo today is a new attempt to break the deadlock from which the Oslo agreement partners are suffering now that it has become clear that this agreement did not bring any peace and that the bilateral meetings between Israeli and Palestinian officials have failed to find a way out of the consequences of this impasse of an agreement [al-ittifaq al-ma'zaq].

In exclusive remarks to Radio Monte Carlo, Salman said that the domestic conditions of the people are threatening both Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin, especially since the latter is incapable of making a decision to realize peace, namely, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories or at least halting the building of settlements.

Paper Rejects Peres' Statements on Peace, Golan

JN0102183095 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Jan 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Peace is the Antithesis of Occupation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is only natural for Israel to point accusing fingers at Syria from time to time. For Israeli officials have repeatedly claimed that Syria is not seeking peace. The objectives and purposes of this discordant Israeli refrain have become widely known. By its repeated endeavors to undermine the Syrian position, Israel seeks to throw dust in the eyes and cover up its responsibility for stalemating, if not torpedoing, the peace process. In this campaign, Israel is promoting flimsy pretexts and excuses.

The latest Israeli accusations were voiced by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. In a statement to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Peres claimed that Syria is opposed to peace with Israel, and that the only thing it wants is to regain the Golan. One could have overlooked such a statement had it been made by a person other than Peres. The fact that it was Peres who claimed that Syria is not seeking peace means that there is a premeditated anti-Syria campaign, in which officials of both the Labor Party and the Likud are involved. The purpose of this campaign is to evade the requirements of peace, chief among which is withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, southern Lebanon, and the Golan. This also means that the Israelis want any settlement over the Golan or southern Lebanon to be modelled on the distorted deals concluded over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They are opposed to withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories. They want to perpetuate the occupation of these territories. They seek to uphold the peace-for-peace formula, which Syria rejects part and parcel. In the same vein, Syria rejects the partial deals and phased settlements promoted by Israel, because they perpetuate the occupation under security pretexts. It is to be recalled that Israel has not thus far subscribed to the territory-for-peace principle. Israel wants to have the best of both worlds: It wants to enjoy peace and perpetuate its occupation of Arab territories at the same time. By all standards, this is unacceptable, because there can be no peace unless the occupation is dismantled.

When it announced that the achievement of peace is its strategic option, Syria was demonstrating a commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process launched at the Madrid conference. It is Israel which has made premeditated attempts to marginalize, sidestep, and overlook these terms to achieve expansionist objectives, maintain its control over Arab lands, and entice the Arabs into relinquishing and abandoning their territories and rights. Had it sought peace, Israel would have hastened to meet its requirements, chief among which is effecting complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Had it sought peace, Israel would not have evaded and skirted the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy, which provide for complete withdrawal of occupation troops to the pre-June 4, 1967 borders.

Developments on the various tracks of the peace negotiations have revealed that Israel has taken crude stands and carried out provocative practices to undermine the peace process and push it into a deadlock. Israel continues to hold on to the occupied territories. It is beating about the bush, because there can be no peace as long as the occupation is maintained.

Commentary: Israel Offers 'False' Peace, 'Heritage of Nazism'

JN0102215195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1910 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Commentary from the "Behind the News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening, gentlemen. No state in our current age clings to the worst policies of racial discrimination and isolation, defining the concept of its security according to the size of its expansionist ambitions and tendencies to hegemony, except Israel. Israel places its own laws above those of the United Nations and international legitimacy.

Israel is expanding settlements in the occupied Arab territories on the pretext that they protect its security, despite the fact that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulate Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Moreover, Israel refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and sets a condition that the Arab states' conventional weapons should be reduced, on the pretext of reassuring Israel about removing any threat to its security, even if peace is achieved in the region.

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Israel even demands that the Arab states sign the NPT while threatening to strike at any nuclear reactor suspected of being in Iran, for example, like the strike at the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. Anyone who protects himself from Israel's expansionist policy or from the schemes designed to impose Israeli hegemony is considered a terrorist and a source of threat to Israel's security, even if he is on the moon or in remote galaxies.

What security concept is this that Rabin and the Israeli lobby in the United States are trying to convince us about, after they have tried to brainwash us about our national and pan-Arab concept? In brief, the Israeli security concept means that we should turn into guards for Israel, or into subordinates to the Israeli guards, so we can obtain a certificate of good conduct acquitting us of being terrorists or of supporting so-called anti-Israeli terrorism. According to the Israeli concept, we should also deal with the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories on the basis that it is something worthless, or something that should not be worthwhile.

This also applies to all the Israeli actions the Israeli leaders describe as falling within the framework of entrenching public order and as being part of the procedures designed to fight terrorism, even if doing so requires breaking the bones of the intifadah children and youths, cutting open the abdomens of women, and killing girls who demonstrate or dry clothes on the roofs of their homes, as well as sealing off or demolishing homes on the mere suspicion that they may have housed a young man who rejects occupation.

According to the Israeli concept, we should also applaud Rabin's policy of collective punishment, of curfews, of cutting water and power supplies, and of arresting thousands of people, because these are routine matters that have nothing to do with the Geneva agreements on which dust has accumulated with the passage of time.

Israel wants us to tame ourselves, under its own laws, which are derived from the heritage of Nazism and fascism and from all the occupiers who thought they could confiscate history and time indefinitely. The Crusaders clung to our Arab land for approximately two decades, but they were ultimately defeated because the Arabs, who were armed with the will of liberation and with the right to sovereignty over their own land, resisted the Crusaders until the sun of freedom shone on their land. Likewise, all the invaders who pursued murder and destruction and tried to cancel the Arab identity were ultimately defeated by virtue of the steadfastness and resistance of the Arabs, the owners of this land and the historic inheritors of the civilizations of their forefathers who enriched mankind with their scientific, cultural, and ethical contributions.

Were those who defended this land throughout the various ages terrorists? Why are Arabs who refuse to throw themselves in the arms of the Israeli peace branded with terrorism? What logic are they peddling? What logic are they seeking to impose, contrary to human rights and the international law that was accepted by mankind after ages of bloody conflicts and devastating wars?

If anyone who defends his own land is a terrorist, then each American who fought against Britain in the U.S. independence battle was also a terrorist. Likewise, each Frenchman who struggled against Hitler's Nazism during World War II was also a terrorist. Moreover, all the peoples who fought against the colonialists were terrorists. What logic are they peddling in Israel and through the Israeli lobby at the U.S. Congress, as though it is a mandatory law nullifying all religious and civil legislation?

Furthermore, what law is this that was made by those who pursued the most hideous and bloody terrorism through the Irgun, Lehi [name as transliterated], Stern, and other Zionist organizations which founded Israel on Palestinian Arab land, and which did not conceal their schemes designed to achieve the Zionist Torah project in terms of dominating the Arab homeland?

In view of all this, what peace do they want to achieve? Do they want peace that will give everyone his due rights? No. They want to impose their own peace, which disavows Arab rights and denies Arabs their dignity, sovereignty, and free will. They also want the Arab homeland to be their ranch, encouraged by those who are voluntarily putting Israeli shackles around their necks, as though the only option for them is to sell themselves in the Israeli white slavery market.

Hence, this Israeli peace is a false peace; it will only dictate Israeli terms. This is because real peace conflicts with occupation, killings, and the systematic terrorism being pursued at state level. Real peace is in line with the Geneva agreements, the UN Charter, and the peoples' legitimate right to wage fair struggle in order to liberate themselves from occupation and from any form of hegemony.

Press: Letter to Clinton 'Another Chance' for Peace

JN0202084595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Feb 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH wonders why Rabin is pessimistic about the Syrian track. The paper says: Syria is ready for a just and comprehensive peace. Syria has told Rabin and his government that it is willing to establish full peace in return for full withdrawal. However, Rabin and his government have avoided responding to this challenge, because Rabin does not want real peace and does not want to abide by the foundations of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is the only problem on the Syrian track.

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The paper asks Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy that call for withdrawal from the 1967- occupied territories. The state of war cannot be ended without first removing the traces of war. And there can be no discussion of other issues that stem from ending the state of war and moving to the state of peace without Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The paper concludes: Syria is offering another chance to activate the peace process through President Hafiz al-Asad's letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton and the resumption of work with the U.S. peace team. Rabin's pessimism will not change Syria's great optimism about peace and the peace process. The nightmares of pessimism will haunt only those who work against the foundations of the peace process, international legitimacy, and just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says Israel is still avoiding the obligations and requirements of peace, primarily full withdrawal in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land- for-peace principle. Israel wants land and peace together and peace in return for peace. According to this logic, Israel has obstructed the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, while clearly blaming Syria and Lebanon for the lack of progress in the peace process and the stalemate in the negotiations.

The paper adds: The lack of progress on the Syrian track is a fact known to all observers, as well as to the U.S. sponsor. Not much thinking is needed to know the reasons for this, which are purely the making of Israel. Yitzhaq Rabin has blocked the way on the Syrian track as a result of his theory on dividing solutions to reach incomplete settlements that achieve Israel's goals.

The paper goes on: By following this policy, Israel is destroying the peace process. Syria has worked for a just and comprehensive peace in order to restore lands and rights in full.

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India

Turkey's Demirel Urges Joint Investment Projects

BK0102161595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, has called for launching joint investment projects by India and his country to attract foreign capital in various fields. Addressing Indian industrialists in New Delhi today, he said the economic and commercial ties between the two countries will be strengthened by implementing such concrete projects. He said the businessmen of the two countries should also combine the resources to tap the opportunities in other Third World nations. Mr. Demirel also identified several areas for new partnership projects.

Later, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FICCI, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, ASSOCHAM, signed a memorandum of understanding with Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board for closer cooperation.

The joint commission of the two countries is likely to meet in April to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade.

Official Receives Kazakh Defense Minister

BK0202035195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defense minister of Kazakhstan, General S.Q. Nurmaghambetov, met the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, in New Delhi yesterday. They discussed matters of mutual interest, including defense cooperation. General Nurmaghambetov is in India on a five-day visit. During his stay, the Kazakh defense minister will visit the National Defense College and defense establishments at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Wellington, and Agra.

Editorial Cites Dangers of 'Roughshod' NPT Process

BK2801150895 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Back to nuclear blackmail"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The mask of innocence of the nuclear triumvirate of the United States, Britain, and France has begun to drop, revealing their true intentions. To understand what these are, one need not go by the Greenpeace report, although that is significant and menacing enough to not be ignored. The report alleges that the nuclear warheads in the arsenals of those three countries are being directed anew at Third World targets. The report may be contradicted in due course by the nuclear powers. That would not necessarily establish sufficient logic in support of their nuclear stance in the post-Cold War world. Once the domestic rivalry within the White family was over—that is how Professor Samuel Huntington described the genesis of the Cold War—the only reason for the West to be apprehensive about the most destructive nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons and their carrier missiles would have been China, outside Huntington's designated family. Beijing has not only been admitted into the nuclear big league, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry proposed during his visit to China a few months ago to transfer simulators so that China need not have nuclear tests to perfect its weapons system. This, of course, is in tune with the argument of American spokesmen that Washington would not recognize any country as a nuclear power which did not detonate a nuclear bomb before 1 January 1967, the cut-off date mentioned in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The NPT is no scripture to be quoted to reverse a self-evident fact. India exploded a nuclear device in May 1974, but just because the NPT does not accord India the status of a "nuclear Brahmin" this country does not cease to be one. Against this background, and taking note of the United States' desperation to secure majority support from NPT signatories for the indefinite continuation of the treaty beyond this May, India's nuclear diplomacy must become more vigorous. Of the 165 signatories, only 60 members are committed to the U.S. position. John Holum, U.S. director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, is hopeful that by April the required 25 additional votes will be available. It may well be so, given the U.S. ability to persuade friends, sometimes by threatening to withdraw carrots (as, for instance, with Egypt). But by dividing the world down the middle, the U.S. may achieve not more than a technical victory. By riding roughshod over the position of scores of developing countries who have been denied the fruits of nuclear technology in violation of the NPT commitment, the nuclear powers will find it impossible to prevent proliferation. On the contrary, by virtually declaring their lack of faith in the Third World countries, the nuclear powers will generate avoidable and nuclear-based confrontation with today's have-nots.

Commentary Opposes Extension of 'Discriminatory' NPT

BK3101014895 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Commentary by M.K. Dhar, diplomatic editor of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Expression of strong views against unconditional and indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which completes 25 years of existence this year, at the preparatory committee meeting in New York ought to convince the nuclear weapon states that the majority of the world's nations oppose its permanent division into nuclear haves and have-nots.

Between now and the review meeting in April , it seems unlikely that the five weapon states, which had been

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dictating terms to the rest of the world on security issues, will succeed in mustering support among the 169 signatories to the treaty in favor of its indefinite extension. Even though India is not a signatory to the NPT and will have no official participation at the review meeting, its clear and categorical stand on the issue of preventing nuclear proliferation has gained wide acceptance among the nonaligned developing countries participating in the preparatory meeting. These nations have taken the position that to be effective, the global nonproliferation regime must be universal, comprehensive and nondiscriminatory and linked to the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

In fact, the nonaligned countries got a resolution passed by the United Nations last year to request the International Court of Justice to urgently render its advisory opinion on the question whether the threat of use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances was permitted under international law.

The agreement against extension of the discriminatory NPT in its present form is simply that it has failed to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and has, in fact, granted the status of threshold status to many nations who were able to acquire the relevant technology and components for making nuclear weapons clandestinely from the signatories to the treaty. The nuclear powers today possess many times more nuclear weapons than they did when the treaty was ratified in 1970. The treaty members have failed to meet the goal of Article Six calling for cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date. The United States and other nuclear weapons states—Russia, China, Britain, and France—have alleged that the nonaligned states oppose indefinite extension with the idea of holding the NPT hostage in exchange for further steps in nuclear disarmament.

In their view, the real stake holders in the NPT are the nonaligned nonnuclear countries that gained the assurance that their neighbors or rivals are not developing nuclear weapons. But experience has shown that none of these guarantees have worked and many nonaligned countries feel threatened by adventurist, reckless, and extremist states such as Pakistan which has developed nuclear weapons with the connivance of the some of the signatory states of the NPT in utter disregard of civilized behavior and interstate relations.

One should not close one's eye to the fact that the treaty has a balance of obligations between the states that had no nuclear weapons in 1968 and agreed not to acquire them and the five nuclear weapon states who agreed to eliminate them through disarmament negotiations. Though some cosmetic reductions have been made by the Nuclear Five, these are not in sufficient quantities to provide comfort to the other nations. Besides, there is nothing to prevent the nuclear weapon states from continuing tests in order to upgrade the nuclear arsenal.

For instance, China has refused to sign a test ban treaty till it completes its program of tests to modernize its weapons. This has been justified with the argument that it has conducted a much smaller number of tests than the other Nuclear Four and its arsenal too is much smaller considering its security needs. All these are arguments for proliferation and not nonproliferation. The NPT has also failed to prevent illicit trade in weapon grade plutonium and uranium and has actually promoted it.

As the review conference nears, there is renewed interest in the action plan for nuclear disarmament proposed by India, which is convinced that the discriminatory NPT in its present form will not solve the problem of nuclear proliferation and disarmament. The time has come to seriously think about renouncing nuclear weapons and not perpetuating their monopoly in the hand of just five nations.

Iran

Foreign Ministry on Recall of Envoy From Norway

LD0202125995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for our Foreign Ministry today explained why the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador has been recalled from Norway.

He said: In recent months the agenda of the Norwegian Government and that country's mass media and organs has been repeatedly to insult Islam and Islamic values. Norway has also directly begun encouraging and supporting those opposed to Islam.

He added: In this connection the Islamic Republic of Iran, through diplomatic channels, has informed the Norwegian Government of its dissatisfaction with this situation. Unfortunately this was not effective and that country persevered with its irrational approach. As a result, two months ago the level of diplomatic ties was reduced and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Norway was recalled.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: In the wake of this action, the Norwegian Government resorted to a retaliatory measure so as to distract the public attention from the main issue. He went on: The Islamic Republic of Iran once again informs the Norwegian authorities that the approach and anti-Islamic measures of that government are not in the interests of the Norwegian people, Iran will refrain from sending a new ambassador until the necessary conditions are met, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will fully implement the economic measures that it introduced several months ago.

IRGC Begins Military Exercises in Persian Gulf

LD0102174695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the first day of the glorious Ten Days of Dawn, the military exercise Shahamat-73

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[Valor-73] began today in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf with the participation of combat and logistics units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC].

In this exercise, the forces taking part will carry out amphibious and diving operations; helicopter and surface vessel training; frogmen jumping into the sea from helicopters; chemical attack defensive operations; as well as defensive exercises against nuclear, chemical, and biological attacks in five stages.

Iranian Navy helicopters will assist IRGC combat and logistics units in this exercise. The exercise will take place over five days in an area covering 6,300 nautical miles.

U.S. Official's Remarks on 'Instability' Rejected

LD0102172795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry today rejected recent remarks made by the U.S. deputy assistant secretary and said: To reach their illegitimate interests, America and a number of foreign countries resort to creating tension and crisis in the Middle East region.

Arthur Hughes, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary, said in Bahrain that America was concerned about Iran and Iraq because it saw these two countries as the cause of instability in the Middle East region.

Mr. Mohammadi, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: Iran, with 1,200 km of sea border in the strategic region of Persian Gulf, not only is not the cause of instability but also has a determining role in the peace and stability of the region. He added: Iran also opposes any kind of move that would cause tension and instability in the region.

He also rejected that poison gas is being produced in Iran with Indian companies' help, and added: Such rumours indicate that Zionist circles are worried about the expanding trend of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India.

The spokesman said: Such propaganda by the American media and Zionist circles is aimed at diverting public opinion from the illegal nuclear activities of the Zionist regime and the threat that the Jerusalem-occupying regime [Israel] poses against the security of the Middle East region.

Official Views Ties With Europe, U.S. Stance

NC0102175195 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Jan 95 pp 1-2

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the Arab Persian Gulf countries want to expand their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This was stated by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an interview with ABRAR. The deputy foreign minister added: In my meetings with the heads of these countries, they have clearly told me that Persian Gulf security cannot be established without the Islamic Republic of Iran and that no security plan can be implemented and succeed without the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said: They have not submitted any preconditions for this.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that territorial disputes between Persian Gulf countries are typical of the kind of dispute that can exist between any two countries, citing the dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and between Bahrain and Qatar as examples.

He added: The issue of territorial disputes is not something exclusive to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates. They know this and admit it in all their private or public meetings and in all their closed or open sessions.

The deputy foreign minister then referred to the fatwa by Saudi Mufti Bin-Baz, who said that Islamic countries should solve their problems themselves and should avoid applying to non-Muslims for a solution. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: This idea is supported by some regional countries.

Commenting on the Islamic Republic's arms purchases, he said: Arab countries accept that Iran's arms purchases are far less than theirs. Saudi Arabia has announced that its military budget this year is $13 billion, that is, several times more than Iran's military budget.

The deputy foreign minister said: If our assessment is that stability and security in the region depend upon the collective participation of all countries, then we should start to pave the necessary grounds for this, since this will be to the benefit of every country. In relation with this, our press can start this process.

On relations with the European Union, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: EU members want to expand their relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Visits and talks have all been positive and have moved toward expanding these relations.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran wants to expand its relations with the EU and European countries. We pursue one principle, that of establishing reciprocal and balanced relations with every country, with the exception of two or three. Naturally various groups and unions have various stances and views. Some have sincere views. Others have a cold approach. And some may even be unfriendly. But the EU is moving toward expanding and consolidating its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The deputy foreign minister then discussed America's efforts to upset EU-Iranian relations and said: We are in

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a duel with America, a duel in various fields. America is trying to prevent its allies from getting closer to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Noting that each country has its own domestic and foreign interests and priorities, the deputy foreign minister said: Independent countries do not sacrifice their domestic interests and priorities for their foreign policy. What is important for them is their domestic interests. Thus, despite America's efforts, European countries have not sacrificed their plans to expand relations with Iran for their relations with America. We can say that America has not succeeded in its objectives.

Ahmad Khomeyni Assails U.S. 'Propaganda Campaign'

LD0102162895 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni here Wednesday said Washington and its allies, in a bid to consolidate their domination over the regional countries, are making them fearful of Iran through resorting to propaganda campaign, such as baseless claim on production of nuclear weapons by Iran.

Son of the late Imam Khomeyni who was addressing a large group of fasting people who had gathered in the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic revolution, said the Iranian Army, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corp (IRGC), volunteer forces and people from various walks of life comprising women and men will defend the country and its Islamic system.

Recalling the early days of the victory of the Islamic revolution and the plots of arrogant powers to undermine the Islamic system, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni, said just after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, the enemies imposed the Iraqi war on Iran in 1980 in order to force the Iranian nation to drop the Islamic values and ideals.

Furthermore, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni condemning massacre of Muslims in Chechnya, said Chechen and Bosnian Muslims are being killed, in the heart of Europe, because of defending their beliefs.

He further called on the people to massively turn out in the 22th Bahman rallies, marking the victory of the Islamic revolution, and to manifest the glory and power of the Islamic revolution to the world.

Paper: U.S. Not Seeking To Establish 'Healthy' Ties

LD0202093895 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 2 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—A morning daily said that a recent suggestion by American authorities on direct negotiations with Iran were not aimed at establishing a healthy diplomatic relations.

In its editorial Thursday, IRAN NEWS referred to the recent statement by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Arthur Howes, who had told a Bahraini newspaper that Iran and America should enter into direct talks.

"This is not the first time a high-ranking American official requested direct negotiations with Iran," said the article, adding that Iran's reasons for declining the proposals were quite clear given the fact that the Americans were not to end their 16-year-old hostility towards the Islamic Republic.

"It should also be kept in mind that the U.S. cannot be trusted to keep its word," stressed the paper.

Referring to the statement made by the former U.S. President, George Bush, that he would respond to goodwill with goodwill, the paper noted, "but the Islamic Republic never received a fitting response to the goodwill it exhibited." For instance, it added, the Iranian assets were not returned although according to international law the [word indistinct] was obliged to do so.

"Obviously today America's request for ditect negotiations is not based on the desire for peace and friendship. There is no doubt that the Americans do not want unconditional direct negotiation and will set preconditions for the establishment of normal relations. and those preconditions would be in conflict with the principles of the revolution and Iran's foreign policies."

Predicting that the Americans would emerge as the winning party from the negotiations in either case, the paper argued that it would be followed with two forms.

Firstly, "America has preconditions for establishing relations. if Iran were to accept those preconditions, then the Western media will launch a propaganda campaign, claiming that the Islamic revolution has been defeated and that Iran has surrendered to American demands," said the paper.

The argument that America would also accept the Iranian conditions was not tenable, because it has to be taken in mind that the American conditions primarily involve relinquishing the revolutionary principles by Iran, whereas the latter's conditions were mainly confined to the economic sphere and were not in conflict with the basic principles of the Americans, the article said.

As the second form, the paper said that if the negotiations ended inconclusively, the Americans would again be the winners, and would declare that Iran has consented to direct negotiations because it was having economic problems.

The paper noted in conclusion that if the negotiations "fails, U.S. arrogance will increase even more."

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Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Ale Sin Visits

Meets With Velayati

LD0102175895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kazakh first deputy foreign minister met Foreign Minister Velayati today. They discussed the expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation in the Caspian Sea.

The Kazakh deputy foreign minister at that meeting called for the expansion of bilateral relations and discussion on all subjects. He described cooperation in the Caspian Sea as very important and said: We are ready to undertake practical steps towards cooperation.

Mr. Velayati for his part welcomed cooperation in the Caspian Sea, saying: The exchange of views between the five neighboring countries of the Caspian Sea will be useful to solve certain problems.

Meets With Counterpart Vaezi

LD0102222595 Tehran IRNA in English 2204 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmoud Vaezi and the visiting Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Ale Sin in a meeting here Wednesday reviewed the related views on the legal authority and the establishment of the organization of the Caspian Sea littoral states.

In the meeting, the two sides announced that the Caspian Sea should be regarded as the friendship, peace and cooperation sea.

Describing Kazakhstan's stance on the legal authority of the Caspian Sea, Ale Sin underlined that the agreement on the legal authority will result in promoting the level of cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Saying none of the littoral states should put a emphasis on a particular stance, Ale Sin called for an immediate effort to be made for finalizing the subject of the legal authority.

Vaezi expressed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for taking an active part in a committee consisting of the authorities of the five Caspian Sea littoral states to finalize the reality of the legal authority.

In the Iranian opinion the establishment of the organization of the Caspian Sea littoral states is a leisure for expansion of relations and establishment of the cordial ties among the littoral states, said Vaezi, adding all the Caspian Sea littoral states will enjoy the outcome of the cooperation.

In the meeting, the two sides also referred to the importance of the consultations between the two countries' authorities and called for continuation of the meetings between the two sides.

Commentary Views 'Deadlocked' Peace Talks

NC0102102295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Feb 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa recently said that the Middle East peace process is experiencing a dangerous and sensitive phase. He also stressed that Israel's negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians are facing a deadlock.

Political analysts believe that these optimistic [as heard] remarks refer only to some of the facts and that the truth is that the Middle East compromise process has fallen into a deadlock. There are many criteria to reveal the facts. One measure is the reduction in the number of visits by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region, which shows that Washington has lost its hopes for the compromise. Christopher, and before him James Baker, visited the Middle East more frequently at a time when hopes for a compromise were stronger. Now that the compromise process is deadlocked, he too has greatly reduced his regional diplomatic efforts.

The failure of the Lebanon-Syria compromise with the Zionist regime is another gauge, showing that the compromise process is facing complete deadlock. Previously, White House officials set the end of 1995 as the expiry date of the timetable for a compromise between Syria and the Zionist regime. But this deadline has passed and the state of the talks between Syria and the Zionist regime is not very different from the condition of the talks a few years ago. Differences remain and the outlook is not very bright.

The interesting point is that the talks between Syria and the Zionist regime, which started in Madrid on the foreign ministerial level, were demoted to the level of the chiefs of Joint Staff and were further demoted recently. The talks, which were to be held on the level of the Syrian and Zionist ambassadors, were to resume last week or this week. But they have not yet started, for reasons unknown.

Another gauge further revealing the failure of the compromise process is the possibility of the failure of 'Arafat's compromise with Israel that was agreed on last year. Only one article of the compromise accord, that is, handing over some security and civil authorities to 'Arafat, has been implemented. The implementation of the other articles is wrapped in a cloud of ambiguity.

All the criteria place new alternatives in front of the Arab governments. These governments, which previously

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thought that the compromise process was the prevailing method and that they had no alternative but to adhere to it, must now adopt a stance on this process one way or another so that their fate will not be tied to the negative impacts of the compromise process.

Commentary on Turkish President's Visit to India

NC0102214795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary: "President Suleyman Demirel's Visit to India"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Suleyman Demirel arrived in India on a four-day visit yesterday. As far as New Delhi is concerned, Turkey is an important country because it is a member of NATO, ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]. The political observers believe that the cooperation between India and Turkey is of real importance from the point of view of the republics in Central Asia, which have recently become independent. Significant competition exists between India and Pakistan on matters related to Kashmir and the republics in Central Asia. Turkey is a founding member of ECO. So, the politicians in India hope to secure its support for their country's bid to join that organization. It is common knowledge that New Delhi wishes to secure the support of the countries in the region for its policy on Kashmir. However, it will be recalled that Turkey has always supported Pakistan in that country's disputes with India. Some of the Turkish politicians are concerned that Turkey's maintaining its policy may cause uneasiness in New Delhi. That state of affairs may have adverse effects on India's policy toward Turkey and that country's approach on Turkey's policy on Cyprus.

A serious dispute exists between Ankara and Athens on the Aegean Sea and the Cyprus problem at the present time. Meanwhile, India is a major market for Turkey, which is suffering from significant economic problems. So, it is believed that President Suleyman Demirel's visit will contribute toward the improvement of relations between Turkey and India. However, the political experts are convinced that the improvement of relations between the two countries may cause a state of uneasiness in India's rivals in the region.

Majles Official: Export Income Used in Smuggling

LD0102220295 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Head of plan and budget commission in Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Dorri Najafabadi said here Wednesday that just one fifth of the volume of non-oil commodities' exports, totalling dlrs.[dollars] four to five billion, this year had been returned to the country's banking system.

Talking to IRNA's parliament reporter here Wednesday, Najafabadi said that in return the sum of money had been used in such unproductive activities as smuggling of commodities.

He regretted that considerable amount of contraband goods were imported to southern Qeshm and Kish border regions by motor boats at present.

The Iranian official said that hard currency revenues gained by Iranian contractors, [words indistinct] abroad as well as trade of goods by border dwellers were not put into the country's hard currency revenues.

According to Najafabadi export of non-oil goods in the second five-year economic development plan (1995-2000) is expected to fetch the country about dlrs. 27.5, with dlrs. 5.5 billion on average annually.

He put volume of liquidity this year at rls. [rials] 54,000 billion and its growth at between 30 to 34 percent.

The Iranian official said that a 15 percent growth forecast for liquidity this year, but in practice it surmounted over 34 percent, posing a danger to the country's economy.

Najafabadi said the budget bill for the Iranian calendar year of 1374 (March 21, 1995-March 20, 1996) stipulated rls. 6,700 billion growth for liquidty and hoped the extent of liquidity to stand at rls. 60,000 billion next year.

He put the ratio of national saving to gross national product (GNP) at 15 percent and said investment rate should be equal to at least one fourth of GNP, i.e. 25 percent.

He added in certain developing countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia and to 39 percent of the value of gross domestic product (GDP).

To hit dlrs. 5.5 billion worth non-oil goods' export target, concluded Najafabadi, export policies should be stabilized, banking, transportation and packaging facilities should be offered and the producers and exporters should be given support.

Indian Denial of Poison Gas Production in Iran Cited

NC0102065395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman has described reports by Western sources that poison gas is being manufactured in Iran with India's help as ridiculous and illogical. The spokesman said yesterday that these false reports are being published in a bid to reinforce fears in the developing countries. He pointed out that Indian companies have won in bidding for the construction of a pesticide factory in Iran.

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Pakistan

Indian Intelligence Said To Harass Visa-Seekers

BK2701162595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A press release issued by the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi says that a number of people, including those from occupied Kashmir, applying for Pakistani visas have reported harassment and intimidation at the hands of the Indian intelligence officials who remain present in the vicinity of the High Commission. The press release adds that visa applicants are subjected to extremely humiliating interrogation when they visit the Pakistani High Commission to request a visa to visit their relatives in Pakistan. There have been instances in which the visa applicants have been taken to police stations and interrogation centers. The press release expresses the hope that the Indian Government will take immediate steps to check this increasing undesirable activity of its intelligence personnel, which deprives the genuine Indian visa applicants of the opportunity to visit their relatives in Pakistan.

Editorial Urges UN-Supervised Plebiscite in Kashmir

BK2901111495 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Jammu Blasts"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three powerful blasts ripped through a packed Jammu stadium on India's Republic Day, killing eight people and wounding 100 others. The remote-controlled explosions caused a massive stampede among the crowd attending the 45th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Indian republic. According to a PTI report, Governor K.V. Krishna Rao, who was addressing the gathering at the time, also sustained injuries. Later, addressing a Press conference, he blamed Pakistan for the blasts despite the fact that Hizbul Mujahideen and Al-Jehad, two leading factions of the Kashmiri freedom-fighters, had claimed responsibility for the explosions in separate statements issued in Srinagar, However, Mr Rao, a former Indian Army chief, viewed the blasts as a Pakistani attempt to sabotage the Indian Government plans to hold elections in Kashmir! Meanwhile, a complete strike was observed in the Valley as a mark of protest against continued Indian occupation of the territory and the reign of terror let loose there by over 600,000 army troops. People hoisted black flags as the rooftops and burnt the Indian flag in different cities across the Valley to register their rejection of the illegal occupation. The strike was a spontaneous reaction of the Kashmiris sick of the reign of rape and rapine unleashed in the Valley by the Indian troops. Countless Kashmiri youths have been incarcerated in jails and women subjected to gang rapes. Entire localities have been razed to the ground on suspicion of harbouring freedom fighters. The statistics relating to the Indian repression in the Valley are dismaying. In addition to the 60,000 cold blooded murders at the hands of the occupation troops, 33,183 Kashmiris have sustained grievous injuries while another 35,201 have been permanently maimed. As many as 90,000 Kashmiris have been reported either missing or in hiding, with another 41,000 having been forced to flee their homes in terror. The immensity of Kashmiris' collective suffering at the hands of Indian troops can be likened to the agony of the Chechen and Bosnian Muslims.

Viewed in the backdrop of such unspeakable barbarity perpetrated on Kashmiris by the Indian occupation troops, the explosions which rocked the Bashi Stadium on India's Republic Day appear to have ample justification. New Delhi has stubbornly refused to implement the Security Council resolutions on the issue. It has tried every stratagem to prolong its illegal hold over the territory and project a white-washed image of the Valley to the outside world. Islamabad has on numerous occasions expressed its readiness to engage in a substantive and meaningful dialogue with New Delhi to reach a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute, but to no avail: Pakistan has taken a principled stand on the Kashmiris' demand for a fair and impartial plebsicite guaranteed to them under the Security Council resolutions. The uprising in the Valley stems essentially from denial to the Kashmiris of their inalienable right to franchise. The Jammu blasts should be viewed as a reaction to the ruthless campaign of terror unleashed by the Indian troops on defenceless Kashmiris. However, the failure of the Indian reign of terror in the Valley proves that a determined people cannot be held in subjugation for ever through brute force. The only sensible way out of the quagmire for India is to arrange a UN-supervised plebsicite in the Valley in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and then honour the popular verdict.

Paper: Inflation Destabilizes Bhutto Government

95AS0182B Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu 24 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Artificial Inflation is a Conspiracy Against the Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has taken serious notice of the inflation of prices of consumer goods and said that profit mongers, hoarders, and mill owners have forced the prices of flour and ghee to go up very high. The private sector factory owners are making 150 percent profit on ghee. The artificial increase in the prices of daily use goods has been made to harass people. This is an open conspiracy against the government. She instructed state governments to take strict action against those who cause inflation and ensure delivery of flour and ghee at lower prices to the poor.

The prime minister's concern over the high prices of daily goods in the whole country is legitimate. This

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reason for this to make illegal profits and also get the people angry at the government. This is a conspiracy against the government which has the constitutional duty to ensure the welfare of the people. The government has taken some very effective steps to end economic problems faced by the people in its budget and developmental activities.

We respect the business profession and it is like the backbone of our nation. Unfortunately, however, most of our businessmen are involved in a blind race for accumulating money and they have always exploited consumers using such methods as artificial inflation, hoarding, and adulteration of goods. These include some people who never consider the government that protects the people as their friend. The reason for this is that they want to have full freedom to exploit the consumers. They are the one most involved in cheating on taxes and even now they are vigorously opposing the government's economic reforms and actions so that they can continue their practice of looting and exploiting the people. Therefore, it is the duty of the government not to allow this conspirator group to repeat this trick against it.

As for the present inflation in prices, the former corrupt and ineffective governments are responsible for it. Those governments were involved in looting the national resources. If Zia-ul Haq had not started the tradition of adopting haphazard policies in economy and if Nawaz Sharif's government had not printed currency notes blindly just to get loans from the banks, the rampant inflation that the government has inherited would not have been created.

We have to praise the present government for it has taken the welcome steps to put the nation on the path of economic stability during its very first year. Foreign investments have flooded the nation which will not only accelerate our industry and trade growth remarkably but will also provide employment to lakhs of unemployed and skilled people. The government has also increased the salaries of workers. We consider the decision of the present government to use the investment profits for paying back national debts, instead of wasting it, praiseworthy. This will help our national treasury get rid of a major burden. As the result of keeping small scale industries clean and honest, the government is getting higher prices of our national resources. This practice will be carried out blindly and the national resources will not be allowed to accumulate in a few hands. The smaller investors are getting bigger share in it. It was said about Pakistan International Airlines and now it is being done about Pakistan Television Cooperation. As for electricity, gas, and oil prices, the prime minister has said that increasing their rates under pressure from international monetary agencies is not a new development. The rate of increases in this area in the past has been higher and as long as we have foreign debts and need to make rapid progress in the area of energy, the rate increase in utilities is unavoidable. However, there is one difference now: Soon the nation will get rid of the curse of load shedding. The factories will not be stopped just because of scarcity of electric power and national growth rate will be so high that we will be able to stabilize prices of commodities. These are the solid economic steps that will catapult the nation to prosperity in a few years. It has been our misfortune that our former governments have been ineffective. Our government is levying new taxes and increasing prices, however, it is also increasing the people's income and employment opportunities. God willing, the results of these economic actions will be positive. Still, it is the duty of state governments to use laws and regulations strictly in order to foil the efforts of profit mongers and hoarders.

Editorial: Situation in Karachi on 'Brink of Ruin'

95AS0182A Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 19 Dec 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Artificial Inflation and Scarcity of Consumer Goods"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The continuous riots and terrorism in Karachi have not only scared the people there but also have pushed industry, trade and even wholesale markets and stores to the brink of ruin. The situation has become so bad that it has become difficult to get even pulses, rice, vegetables or bread from stores and street vendors.

Delivery of food to the city from outside has stopped totally because of the continuing riots. A big city like Karachi depends wholly on villages, especially in Sindh, for all it vegetable and food needs. The scarcity of these items has led to prices rising sky high in this city.

Another fact is that continuous riots and scary rumors have shaken up people's confidence and they are forced to stock these necessary items. The situation in the central district is especially bad. The people remain locked in their homes for days because of the continuous shooting and riots. The scarcity of necessary food items has created a new problem.

The uncertainty about the future has shaken up the people and everyone is concerned about buying and hoarding these items. This tendency has also put pressure on the market and consumer goods, especially food, are becoming scarce and expensive.

In this situation, it is the duty of our government, which does nothing except make statements, to help the people develop a feeling of security. The government has failed in doing so.

The government should also make arrangements to provide consumer items, especially food, immediately. It should make arrangements and take necessary steps to discourage people from stockpiling these items. Otherwise, it will lead to another crisis in the city.

Karachi: Economy said 'On Brink of Ruin'

95AS0182D Karachi AMN in Urdu 11 Dec 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Karachi's Situation and the Government's Impotence"]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted on incidents in December]

The Benazir government has been in power for 14 months. It is usual for political parties to forget their manifestoes and promises after they come to power and their priorities also change. At present the party in power is going through this phase. It has lost the capability of taking political steps or making decisions. It has also failed to meet its priority goals. The apathy and impotence it has demonstrated is a bitter fact. The brutal killing as the result of the firing on Wednesday at Akbar Mosque has shaken up everyone. However, many people are still engrossed in their own world and are enjoying the luxuries that come with their positions. The strong insistence of the opposition could not move the government officials even an inch. They demonstrated their apathy toward the serious situation in Karachi and preferred to talk about the establishment of a disco club in Islamabad. None of the government ministers was willing to discuss the scary situation in Karachi. Karachi has become a disadvantaged city whose economy is on the brink of ruin. More than 60 percent of our country's trade is carried out in this city, however, the deteriorating situation has badly effected all kind of business activities and the negative effects of it have begun to show up. The government revenue is also effected negatively. Investors are moving their industries to Punjab or Sarhad. Foreign and internal investment in the stock market has come to a standstill because of the deteriorating situation in Karachi. It is suffering from this slump. If this situation continued, the confidence of investors here and abroad will be shaken and the government's economic policies will suffer badly. Even average people are thinking about moving away from here because of the danger to their lives. This situation is really serious. Everyone is scared and feels harassed. However, the government is deliberately ignoring their situation. The people are forced to wonder why the government has left Karachi helpless. The party in power now thinks that Karachi was never their city, therefore, it will leave Karachi this way, and since it is possible to run the government without Karachi, it is not necessary to worry about it. The apathy of the government is atrocious because the government is responsible for protecting the life and property of every citizen. One does not have to do any research on it! [passage omitted]

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